

ENTERTAINMENT

Networks turn to Twitter to connect viewers, television

Page 17

**MILITARY**

'Fighting is worth it' even in defeat, say midshipmen who reported sex assaults

Page 3

**COLLEGE HOOPS**

Utter Madness: Upsets abound in NCAA tournament

Pages 29-32

World: Chinese satellite spots floating object in jet search effort » Page 2

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Free to Deployed Areas

VA moves to help veterans who suffer from ALS

By MARTHA QUILLIN

The News & Observer (Raleigh, N.C.)

REIDSVILLE, N.C. — Thomas Corbett may never know what — if anything — from his five years as a heavy-equipment mechanic in the Marine Corps brought on the disease that likely will steal from him the use of nearly every one of his muscles and, sometime in the next several years, his very breath.

Since he was diagnosed in 2012 with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, known as Lou Gehrig's disease, Corbett, 50, said he has wondered: "Was it some of those shots I took when I was going in and out of the country? Was it something in the water at Camp Lejeune? Was there something on some of those old ships I was on?"

In fact, no one knows why U.S. military veterans are twice as likely to develop ALS as the general population, or why those who deployed during the Gulf War in 1990-91 may be twice as likely to get the disease as other troops. Although it's still a rare illness, affecting about 30,000 people across the country, it is so devastating to its victims and their families that the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs have made a mission out of trying to reduce their suffering.

SEE ALS ON PAGE 5



Supporters of Afghan vice presidential candidate Habiba Sarabi and presidential candidate Zalmi Rassoul attend a campaign rally in Kabul on March 17.

MASSOUD HOSSAIN/AP

By KIM GAMEL

The Associated Press

KABUL — The candidate strode down the aisle separating hundreds of male and female supporters at a campaign rally in Kabul. She shook hands with the women filling the chairs to her right. To the men on the other side, she simply nodded.

Habiba Sarabi is the most prominent woman running on a ticket in the April 5 election to choose a successor to President Hamid Karzai. Sarabi once served as Afghanistan's first female governor, and her current bid to become Afghanistan's first female vice president is part of an effort to get out the women's vote as candidates scramble for every ballot.

WOOLING WOMEN VOTERS

Candidates in Afghan election look to female support

Women "can affect the transition, the political transition," she said in an interview after addressing the rally to support Sarabi and her running mate, presidential candidate Zalmi Rassoul. The event was held in a wedding hall in a Kabul district dominated by her ethnic minority Hazara community.

But Sarabi, 57, a former governor of Bamiyan province, still must conform to cultural norms in this deeply conservative Islamic society. Her challenge highlights the difficulties facing Afghan women who worry about losing hard-won gains as international combat forces prepare to withdraw from the country by the end of this year.

SEE VOTERS ON PAGE 3



Travis Long, News & Observer/MCT

Marine Corps veteran Thomas Corbett, shown with his wife, Doris Corbett, was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (Lou Gehrig's disease) in 2012.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The Americans were generous to donate so much money, but they gave it to the wrong people."

— Gen. Labib Raed of the Afghan army, criticizing U.S. development efforts in his country

See story on Page 4

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5. KMC child molester apprehended, convicted

COMING SOON



Science & Medicine

Elephants have learned to "understand human"

TODAY IN STRIPES

| | |
|------------------------|------------|
| American Roundup | 12 |
| Business | 14 |
| Comics | 18 |
| Crossword | 18 |
| Entertainment..... | 15, 17, 19 |
| Music | 16 |
| Opinion | 22-23 |
| Sports | 24-32 |
| Weather | 14 |

WORLD

Chinese satellite detects object in plane search area

By SCOTT McDONALD
AND ROB GRIFFITH
The Associated Press

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia — While possible clues about the fate of a Malaysia Airlines jet missing for more than two weeks keep coming from satellite images, it was as frustrating as ever Saturday to turn the hints from space into actual sightings.

China released a satellite image showing an object floating in a remote stretch of the southern Indian Ocean near where planes and ships have been crisscrossing since similar images from an Australian satellite emerged earlier in the week. China's image, showing an object that appeared to be 72 feet by 43 feet, was taken around noon Tuesday.

"The news that I just received is that the Chinese ambassador received a satellite image of a floating object in the southern corridor and they will be sending ships to verify," Malaysian Defense Minister Hishammuddin Hussein told reporters.

Australian officials said the location was within the 14,000-square-mile area they searched on Saturday, but the object was not found. Australian Maritime Safety Authority spokeswoman Andrea Hayward-Maher said she did not know whether the precise coordinates of the location had been searched, but added that co-ordinators will use the information to refine the search area.

The authority, which is overseeing the search in the region, said a civil aircraft reported seeing a number of small objects in the search area, including a wooden pallet, but a New Zealand military plane diverted to the location found only clumps of seaweed. The agency said in a statement that searchers would keep trying to determine whether the objects are related to the lost plane.

The latest satellite image is an-

other clue in the baffling search for Malaysia Airlines Flight 370, which dropped off air traffic control screens March 8 over the Gulf of Thailand with 239 people aboard.

After about a week of confusion, Malaysian authorities said pings sent by the Boeing 777-200 for several hours after it disappeared indicated that the plane ended up in one of two huge arcs: a northern corridor stretching from Malaysia to Central Asia, or a southern corridor that stretches toward Antarctica.

The discovery of two objects by the Australian satellite led several countries to send planes and ships to a stretch of the Indian Ocean about 1,550 miles southwest of Australia. But three days of searching have produced no confirmed signs of the plane.

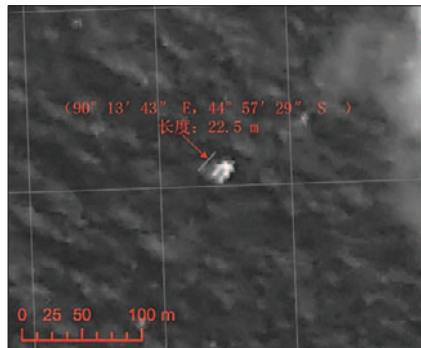
One of the objects spotted in the earlier satellite imagery was described as almost 80 feet in length and the other was 15 feet.

The Boeing 777-200 is about 209 feet long with a wingspan of 199 feet and a fuselage about 20 feet in diameter, according to Boeing's website.

In a statement on its website announcing China's find, the State Administration of Science, Technology and Industry for National Defense did not explain why it took four days to release the information. But there was a similar delay in the release of the Australian satellite images because experts needed time to examine them.

Two military planes from China arrived Saturday in Perth to join Australian, New Zealand and U.S. aircraft in the search. Japanese planes will arrive Sunday and ships were in the area or on their way.

Erik van Sebille, an oceanographer at the University of New South Wales in Sydney, said the currents in the area typically



PROVIDED BY CHINA'S STATE ADMINISTRATION OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INDUSTRY FOR NATIONAL DEFENSE/AP

An object floating in the southern Indian Ocean captured Tuesday by a Chinese satellite is estimated to be 72 feet long and 43 feet wide.

move at about one yard per second but sometimes can move faster.

Based on the typical speed, a current theoretically could move a floating object about 107 miles in two days.

But even if both satellites detected the same object, it may be unrelated to the plane. One possibility is that it could have fallen off a cargo vessel.

Warren Truss, Australia's acting prime minister while Tony Abbott is abroad, said before the new satellite data was announced that a complete search could take a long time.

"It is a very remote area, but we intend to continue the search until we're absolutely satisfied that further searching would be futile — and that day is not in sight," he said.

"If there's something there to be found, I'm confident that this search effort will locate it," Truss said from the base near Perth that is serving as a staging area for search aircraft.

Aircraft involved in the search include two ultra-long-range commercial jets and four P3 Orions, the maritime safety aircraft said.

Because the search area is a four-hour flight from land, the Orions can search for about only two hours before they must fly back. The commercial jets can stay for five hours before heading back to the base.

Two merchant ships were in the area, and the HMAS Suc-

cess, a navy supply ship, also had joined the search.

Hishammuddin, the Malaysian defense minister, said conditions in the southern corridor were challenging.

The area where the objects were identified by the Australian authorities is marked by strong currents and rough seas, and the ocean depth varies between 3,770 feet and 23,000 feet. In addition, Hishammuddin said a low-level warning had been declared for Tropical Cyclone Gillian, although that was north of Australia and closer to Indonesia.

The Chinese planes that arrived in Perth on Saturday were expected to begin searching on Sunday. A small flotilla of ships from China also will join the hunt, along with a refueling vessel that will allow ships to stay in the search area for a long time, Truss said.

The missing plane, which had been bound for Beijing, carried 153 Chinese passengers. There was a small flotilla of ships from China also will join the hunt, along with a refueling vessel that will allow ships to stay in the search area for a long time, Truss said.

"You can't leave here! We want to know what the reality is!" they shouted in frustration over what they saw as officials' refusal to answer questions. The relatives gave reporters a statement saying they believe they have been "strung along, kept in the dark and lied to by the Malaysian government."

DODDS SPORTS

Keep up with the champions of overseas military high school sports with Stars and Stripes. Visit Stripes.com/sports for DODEA sports news, scores, photos and more.



STARS AND STRIPES

MILITARY

'Fighting is worth it,' even in defeat

Others who were assaulted hail fellow midshipman for pressing case

By MELINDA HENNEBERGER
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Here's how low the expectations are among some of those midshipmen who have reported being sexually assaulted at the Naval Academy: After Thursday's not guilty verdict for a former Navy football player charged with sexual assault, three such women said they were floored that the case got as far as it did. And they are in awe of the accuser for taking it to court at all.

They all said she had accomplished something important in the process, spurring badly needed reforms to the system, even though the accused, Midshipman Joshua Tate, was found not guilty of sexually assaulting her in a car outside an off-campus party in April 2012.

"Fighting is worth it," even in defeat, said Annie Kendzior, who reported in 2011 that she had been sexually assaulted by two Naval Academy athletes in 2008. "I don't want to say I envy her,

because this is nothing to envy, but even a step towards justice is awesome."

The accuser hadn't wanted to come forward at first and "anticipated there would not be fairness," said her attorney, Susan Burke. The decision of the military judge, Marine Corps Col. Daniel Daugherty, was "completely expected from the get-go," Burke said. "But it's still a blow" to the young woman, who is now a 22-year-old senior at the academy and recently became engaged.

After the verdict, Tate's defense attorney, Jason Ehrenberg, accused Burke of using the case to further her own cause, a stem-to-stern overhaul of the military justice system. Even some sympathetic to the accuser and the need for reform have questioned whether the case was strong enough for prosecutors to bring it to trial.

The prosecution argued that the woman was too intoxicated to have consented to sex, while the defense countered that she very well did know what she was doing and was lying to get back at

Tate because she suspected that she had contracted a sexually transmitted disease from him. The judge said there just wasn't enough evidence to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the woman was too drunk to consent.

So was the case just too messy to go to court?

Not at all, according to the other victims. The Washington Post interviewed, who said they certainly don't think that only cases that are clear winners should be prosecuted.

"Even if it's not in your favor, it's going to be in someone's favor," said Kendzior, 23, who left the academy to complete college elsewhere and is now a market researcher in Fort Worth. She feels some pride, too, in the fact that "all of us who've told our stories have gotten this for her" — an actual hearing in a military court, she means.

Kendzior waited so long to report, she said, because she feared being blamed for getting sports stars in trouble. She wasn't wrong about that, either, as it turned out.

"I wanted to stay, but the academy is cultish, and once you tell," she said, "you're not part of it any more."

First she became a pariah, with only one friend who stuck by her at the academy. Then she became suicidal, at one point texting her father, "This might be my last day." A few months ago, Kendzior told me that she was still receiving ugly messages from former classmates: "I got one the other day saying, 'Are you a slut?'"

But on Thursday, Kendzior said that while the verdict was "typical," the accuser was extraordinary for going forward with the case. Two other victims who did not want to be identified echoed that feeling.

They, too, described becoming ostracized on campus after reporting the attacks. The accuser in the Tate case also has been shunned at the academy. But, she says, the reason she decided to cooperate came down to this: "You should never keep quiet to keep the peace."

Say what?

A sample of reader comments from stripes.com



Sinclair verdict stuns, disappoints

Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Sinclair, once facing life in prison for alleged sexual assault on a junior officer, was reprimanded and fined \$20,000 Thursday after a plea deal reduced the charges. Critics of military justice, who have long sought changes in how sexual crimes are prosecuted, had a field day.

Readers respond:

What would happen if he was enlisted? Jail and dishonorable discharge. That's what would happen.

— Lacey Lewis

The only miscarriage of justice here is that the adulterous female captain was granted immunity.

— Lisa Lange Clancy

So he keeps his rank, still gets an honorable discharge, still gets a full pension, and likely some cushy contractor job right back with the DoD. Really? He used his position to sexually abuse two subordinates — people he knows he is to have zero fraternization with anyway — uses his power to keep them quiet, and all he gets is this crap sentence?

— Tina Weaver Gyokeres

Rank has its privileges. What a BS sentence. He went against everything he should have stood for. I am losing faith in our system.

— Glenn M. Gray

And leaders wonder why there is a breach of trust between the enlisted and officer ranks ...

— Scott Bonnar

No active duty person will ever look that man in the face again with respect and active duty spouses will look at him with the open contempt he deserves. Furthermore, his spouse is part of the problem, he cheated on her on going and should have been booted out of the home.

— Susan McGraw

Guess it pays to have rank. What a sad message this sends to troops.

— Jeani Hughes Flanagan

Join the fray at: stripes.com/go/sinclair

Voters: Afghan women hope to shape election despite obstacles

FROM FRONT PAGE

Afghan women were granted the right to vote in the constitution adopted after the U.S.-led coalition toppled the Taliban regime in late 2001. Under the Taliban, women were also banned from school and forced to wear the all-encompassing burqa.

But security concerns have marred their participation in previous elections. In areas of the country still controlled by the Taliban, women have been threatened with violence if they vote.

In 2009, many Afghan women registered but then gave their voting cards to male relatives, who ended up casting multiple ballots as polling officials and police conveniently looked away.

Naeed Farid, a lawmaker from the western province of Herat, predicted fraud will be rampant this year as well.

"I am so optimistic that we will have more women to vote in this election, but who they vote for and what happens to their vote will be a problem," she said in a telephone interview. "There's lack of awareness that women can decide on their own, and families, especially the fathers, have an influence, and this is something we can't change now, not this time."

Still, she and others said, there are signs of progress.

There are nine candidates in the crowded race, but only three are women. They are: Gul Makai Safi, Rasseou; Abdullah Abdullah, who was runner-up to Karzai in

the disputed 2009 election; and Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai.

Gul Makai Safi, the head of the women's council for Abdullah's campaign, said women are streaming into their offices to learn about the process. She expressed concern that women in areas where militants are active will be unable to vote.

'There's lack of awareness that women can decide on their own, and families, especially the fathers, have an influence.'

Naeed Farid
lawmaker from Herat

eligible voters in Afghanistan, according to the Independent Election Commission, but the number of people who go to the polls may be higher because many voter cards were issued in past elections and are unaccounted for. Since registration began last year for next month's election, the commission has documented 3.6 million new voters, including 1.2 million women.

"We are very hopeful and optimistic that this time the women's vote will decide the fate of the candidates in the election," he said.

"Women will bring a change in the result of the election this time," he said officially.



MASSOUD HOSSAIN/AP

Afghan women rally for Afghan vice presidential candidate Habiba Sarabi and presidential candidate Zalmay Rassouf, during a campaign event in Kabul on Monday

Volunteers have visited villages and districts around the country to inform women about the issues and how their participation could help improve their lives.

But many obstacles remain. To help prevent suicide bombings and other attacks, police will search voters before they are allowed to enter the polling stations. The Interior Ministry said it is training 13,000 women to search female voters, but there is concern there will be too few of them — and that some women will be turned away from the polls as a result.

And even in Kabul, some women have no idea how to register.

No one guided us, and we don't have any voting cards. If we could get our voting cards, we could

have fulfilled our part in making the government," said Gul Sara, a woman living in an internal refugee camp in the Afghan capital.

Activists also warned the situation has not changed in areas where the Taliban remain active and conservative mores are entrenched, including many parts of the east and in the southern provinces of Kandahar and Helmand.

Covered from head to toe in a black veil in downtown Kandahar city, Shagiba Ahmadi acknowledged the difficulties facing women and chastised the government for not doing more on their behalf.

"I think we have to try harder," the 20-year-old tailor said. "Afghan women are not very active. They should vote. I will vote."

MIDEAST

Russia embraces Afghanistan, bestows series of investments

By KEVIN SIEFF
The Washington Post

KABUL

To the white-bearded Afghan machinists, it felt like the Cold War era had suddenly returned.

After 25 years of working in a sprawling Soviet-built factory — a vestige of a war and occupation long extinguished — they suddenly spotted a new shipment of gleaming Russian equipment arriving last fall on an 18-wheeler.

The factory was abuzz. The Russians were back.

As the U.S.-led war winds down and Russia reasserts itself in Ukraine and the Middle East, Moscow is also ramping up its investment in Afghanistan. It is rebuilding the relics of the Soviet occupation and promoting its own political and cultural prowess.

“You see Russia’s interest in Afghanistan rising. It’s visible,” said Stepan Anikeev, the spokesman for the Russian Embassy in Kabul. “We want to enlarge our role in the region. It’s not only for Afghanistan but for our own goals.”

Russia’s recent incursion into its neighbor, Ukraine, and its annexation of Crimea reflect its intent to maintain influence in some former Soviet republics. It is also reaching out to old allies further afield. Last month, President Vladimir Putin received Egyptian army chief Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, whose relations with Washington have been strained since a coup last summer, and expressed support for the military man’s expected presidential bid.

Moscow is also negotiating a major arms deal with el-Sissi and agreed in 2012 to sell Iraq \$4.3 billion in weapons. In Syria, Putin is strongly backing the government of President Bashar Assad as he seeks to crush a rebellion that has received support from the West.

In Afghanistan, Russian officials point to their development activities as a counterexample to U.S. aid projects, which many Afghans criticize as wasteful and misguided.

“The mistake of the last 12 years is that people were eager to give money, but without the proper strategy,” said Russian Ambassador Andrey Avelitsyn, who was also based in Kabul as a young diplomat in the 1980s.

The Soviet investment model

Many Afghans, including President Hamid Karzai, praise the Soviet model even though they fought a bloody 10-year war against the country’s army, which invaded in 1979 to support an unpopular communist government.

“The Soviet money went to the right place. They were efficient in spending their money and doing it through the Afghan government,” Karzai said in an interview with The Washington Post this month.

The new warmth between the Kremlin and Afghanistan was visible last week when the Afghan government released a message from Putin marking the Islamic new year. It was the only such message made public and was released at a time when the United States and European governments are imposing sanctions on Russia for its expansion into Ukraine.

“I am certain that friendly ties and cooperation between Russia and Afghanistan in the future will add to the goodness and welfare of our people,” Putin said in the message to Karzai, which was translated into



PHOTOS BY LORENZO TUGNOLI/The Washington Post

A worker prepares metal used in walls in the Kabul Housebuilding Factory. The factory was founded during the Russian invasion and is working to this day to produce prebuilt houses.



A mother walks her children to the local park outside an apartment building in the Soviet-built Microryan neighborhood in Kabul.

Dari, the local language.

The Russian government has compiled a list of 140 Soviet-era projects that it would like to rehabilitate, according to the embassy. The Kabul Housebuilding Factory, the country’s largest manufacturing facility, was the first to receive assistance last fall: \$25 million in new equipment.

A few miles away in Kabul, the Russian government is spending \$20 million to renovate the Soviet House of Science and Culture, constructed in 1982. The building, whose jutting angles reflected Soviet industrial design, was torn apart by bullets and rockets and became crowded with Afghan drug addicts. It is to reopen this fall as the Russian Cultural Center, a beacon for those with interest in Russia.

“We want to expand our culture here,” Anikeev said of the center.

Help with housing

Afghanistan is still peppered with reminders of both the Soviet Union’s war and its infrastructure projects. Soviet land mines continue to kill and injure dozens of Afghan civilians every year.

But its bread-making factory still produces thousands of loaves every day. Its housing complexes are among the country’s most desirable (and the only ones with central heating).

“I hated the Soviets. I fought against them. They killed my father. But this is still the best place to live,” Gen. Labib Raed

said in his apartment in the Microryan, a Soviet-built complex which translates to “housing block” in Russian.

Raedd is an officer in the U.S.-backed Afghan army, but he’s quick to criticize the U.S. development effort — more than \$100 billion spent on non-military aid, including roads and schools.

“The Americans were generous to donate so much money, but they gave it to the wrong people,” he said.

The Microryan looks like it has been transplanted from a small Russian city. It is gray and unadorned, a stark contrast to the flashiness of Kabul’s new homes and wedding halls. The four-bedroom apartments are cramped and austere, but they sell for more than \$100,000.

Projects such as the Microryan were constructed during the height of the Cold War. The Soviet Union continued building even as it waged war in the country throughout the 1980s. And then, on Feb. 15, 1989, it was all over. The Soviets withdrew and their projects — the factories, schools, swimming pools atop Kabul hills — were left largely unattended.

Many of those projects managed to survive a civil war and the Taliban regime relatively intact. The house-building factory made the prefabricated walls from which Taliban leaders, including Mohammad Omar, built their homes and offices. Last year, it produced the walls for one of Afghanistan’s biggest prisons.

The machinists who were in their 20s

‘You see Russia’s interest in Afghanistan rising. It’s visible. We want to enlarge our role in the region. It’s not only for Afghanistan but for our own goals. ... We want to expand our culture here.’

Stepan Anikeev
Russian Embassy spokesman in Kabul

when they were trained by Soviet engineers are now middle-aged, but they’re still working on the same equipment, with instructions in fading Cyrillic characters.

The new Russian technology is expected to be installed in the coming months.

But why?

Many Afghans question why Russia seems so interested in development here now, just as the West’s assistance tapers off. The aid program seems to many a calculated move reminiscent of the Great Game, the contest between the Russian and British empires for influence in central Asia in the 19th century.

Russian officials say that supporting Afghanistan makes sense given their regional interests.

Afghanistan shares borders with three former Soviet states, which still receive considerable funding — and direction — from Moscow. And Afghanistan continues to be a major pipeline for narcotics that pour into Russia. Economic development, along with a Russian-funded counternarcotics program, could curb that illicit trade, officials hope.

Still, the timing of Russia’s development effort has raised eyebrows.

That country’s most significant economic partnership with Afghanistan in recent years, a joint commission on “trade and economic cooperation,” wasn’t launched until 2012, the year the U.S. withdrawal began.

MILITARY

ALS: 'Frustrating' disease robs sufferers of physical abilities, leads to death

FROM FRONT PAGE

"I tell people there are two different worlds for people with ALS," said Suzanne Gilroy, senior social work manager for the North Carolina chapter of the ALS Association, the national not-for-profit group dedicated to fighting the disease and helping patients cope with its effects. "There's the one for people who are veterans, and the one for everybody else."

"The veterans get taken care of."

The military began to notice an increase in the number of ALS cases among troops who had deployed to the Persian Gulf and suffered from what became known as Gulf War syndrome. By the early 2000s, neurologists and epidemiologists were finding an increased incidence of ALS throughout the military across all branches, over all periods of service, regardless of where or whether the troops had deployed.

Many were considerably younger than the average ALS patient, who is diagnosed in middle age. Most had been extremely physically fit for most of their lives.

In 2003, the VA set up a nationwide registry of veterans with ALS to find out how many were living, to track their health status, to collect data, DNA samples and clinical information, and to provide a way for the VA to inform them about research studies in which they might participate. When it stopped enrolling people in the registry at the end of 2007, it had found 2,121 veterans with ALS nationwide. The dates of service ranged from before World War II to the post-9/11 war in Iraq.

Compelling were the findings that in 2008, the VA took the unusual step of declaring ALS a service-connected illness for nearly all veterans diagnosed with the disease, regardless of where or when they had served. The declaration presumes that something about their military service caused or aggravated the condition.

The declaration makes veterans with ALS eligible for monthly disability compensation plus monthly stipends; monthly payments for survivors; health care for life, including prescriptions, medical supplies and specialized equipment; home-based primary care; home-improvement grants to increase accessibility and safety; vocational and occupational therapy; money for handicapped-accessible vehicles; funeral expenses; and other benefits. And, because ALS is a progressive, degenerative disease that is most often fatal within two to five years of diagnosis, the VA now declares patients 100 percent disabled as soon as they're diagnosed so they don't have to keep going through the agency's lengthy re-evaluation process every time their condition degrades.

"That keeps people like me from having to go back to the VA every six months and saying, 'Hey, look what else I can't do,'" said Jeff Long, a 23-year veteran who served in the Marine Corps and then in the Air Force before retiring in 2008 to work in the



TRAVIS LONG, RALEIGH (N.C.) NEWS & OBSERVER/MCT

Marine Corps veteran Thomas Corbett transitions from a walker to a stationary bicycle with the help of his wife, Doris, earlier this month at their home in Reidsville, N.C. Thomas Corbett was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease.

private sector.

Long, who lives in Raleigh, was diagnosed with ALS in 2011. The disease manifests and progresses differently for each patient. For Long, symptoms began with speech and respiratory problems.

"We thought maybe he had had a stroke," said his wife, Barbara. "He started choking on his food. He kept saying he felt like his tongue wasn't working."

The first neurologist mentioned ALS but said he didn't think Long had it. The second ruled out everything else — the way every ALS diagnosis is made, because there is no single test for the disease — and struggled to find a way to tell the couple.

"Doctors have a very hard time giving that diagnosis," Barbara Long said, "because they know it's a death sentence."

Since identifying ALS as a disease in 1869, experts have been unable to determine a cause, to find a prevention or to develop an effective treatment. According to the ALS Association, the prognosis for a person who develops ALS now is essentially the same as it was 145 years ago. As the disease attacks nerve cells and pathways in the brain and spinal cord, the patient loses the ability to control muscle movement, resulting eventually in total paralysis. Patients can't walk, move their arms, talk or breathe independently.

Meanwhile, their minds usually remain sharp.

Long, 52, is still working, but the time is coming when he'll need to conserve the energy that requires. When Long overdoes it, his wife says, he pays the price in sore muscles and halted speech. ALS patients are cautioned against overexertion, because when they lose strength in a muscle, it doesn't come back.

"It's frustrating to see your abilities diminish," Long said, his words understandable but slurred in the way of a dental patient shot

full of lidocaine. "One day you can speak clearly and whistle, and the next day you sound like you're chewing on marshmallows. One day you can do whatever you want, and the next you can't button your shirt."

Neither Long nor Corbett had ever been to the VA before they developed ALS. They rarely went to any doctor because they were each in such good health.

Corbett joined the military in 1981, right out of high school.

"I wanted to get away from home," he said, and from his family's tobacco farm and the rural community in

Caswell County where he grew up. After basic training at Parris Island, S.C., he was assigned to Camp Lejeune. He traveled twice to Cuba on road-building projects that lasted eight months each, did some cold-weather training in New York and Norway and was sent on a couple of cruises.

He might have served longer, but in 1986, the Marines were downsizing, and his career adviser told him there was little room for him to move up. By then, he and his high school sweetheart, Doris, had married and had their first child.

"So I decided to come back home."

He worked a series of jobs before landing one he loved at P. Lorrillard in Greensboro, where he ran a cigarette-packing machine. When he wasn't working, he and Doris were usually outside, working on their garden or building something in their yard.

One day, he said, he was painting a new shed the couple had built when his ladder broke and

he fell. He was scratched up and bruised, but thought he was OK until a few days later, he started hurting. Soon, he was dragging one leg.

"There was no pain," he said. "But my knee wouldn't move."

He went to a physical therapist, then a chiropractor, a back specialist and finally a neurologist at Duke University Medical Center, who said, "I think I know what's wrong with you."

He referred Corbett to Dr. Rick Bedlack, chief of neurology at the Durham VA Medical Center and director of the Duke ALS Clinic, which started in 2000 and is now one of the largest and most comprehensive ALS clinics in the world.

There still is only one drug that doctors routinely prescribe for ALS patients: riluzole, which can slow the progress of the disease in some people but doesn't reverse nerve damage or muscle weakness. But there are medications to control muscle spasms and vitamin and nutrition regimens to help maintain energy and strength. Dozens of aids and gadgets help compensate for lost abilities. Among them are canes, electric wheelchairs and computers that translate eye movement into text and electronic speech.

At the clinic, Bedlack finds patients such as Long and Corbett who are veterans and don't know

they are eligible for VA benefits, and he connects them with specialists who can help them navigate the benefits system. The clinic and others in the state offer support groups for patients and their caregivers that meet in person or by teleconference.

Recently, Bedlack began offering a telemedicine option, which allows him to see patients in their homes via Web cameras and an Internet connection. It saves patients, some of whom live hours away, the exhausting work of traveling to the clinic, and it lets Bedlack see how the patients function at home.

"Veterans, especially, don't like to complain," Bedlack said. "You ask them how they manage at home, and they say, 'Fine.' But then you get a camera in there and you see that they can't easily step into the shower, or they can't get into or out of bed without help. This way, I can see if they need a bedrail, or a modification to their bathroom to make things easier on them and the person who is taking care of them."

In the past month, at Bedlack's recommendation, the VA helped Corbett get an electric wheelchair and a van that can accommodate it. Until then, Corbett said, he was getting out less and less, because while he can still walk using a rolling walker, it's slow and laborious, with his big hands wrapped around the handles, his 6-foot-2-inch frame bent slightly over, and his feet shuffling into place.

Corbett is still learning to drive the joystick-operated wheelchair, and he's waiting on a contractor to finish an estimate for renovating his bathroom and widening doors in his house so he can maneuver without bumping into things. But already, he said, he appreciates the device that he first viewed as a form of surrender to his illness.

"I've had to admit that I couldn't do what I thought I could do," he said. "That's been rough."

Long and Corbett said they are grateful to the VA for stepping up and improving care for veterans with ALS. They know the agency has been criticized for years for moving too slowly to process disability claims and for denying services that veterans believed they were owed.

In this case, both said, the VA has honored its promises.

Corbett and Long are honoring theirs, too.

"I'm still fighting it," Corbett said of the disease. He'll keep fighting for however long he has left.

He got that from the Marines.

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NATION

Obama meets with Internet CEOs on tech privacy

By CRAIG TIMBERG
AND TOM HAMBURGER
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama and several top advisers met with six technology executives at the White House on Friday afternoon amid fears that National Security Agency spying is undermining one of the nation's most vital industries, especially in lucrative overseas markets.

The global backlash to revelations about NSA surveillance has become a top concern for high-tech companies such as Google, Facebook and Microsoft, which are battling allegations that American firms are more vulnerable to U.S. government spying and pay insufficient attention to consumer privacy.

While the White House pre-



“When our engineers work tirelessly to improve security, we imagine we’re protecting you against criminals, not our own government.”

Mark Zuckerberg
Facebook chief executive

sented the session as “part of a continuing dialogue on issues surrounding intelligence, technology and privacy,” the meeting did not satisfy all of those participating.

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg, who expressed frustration before the meeting, left dissatisfied, according to a company statement.

“While the U.S. Government has taken helpful steps to reform its

surveillance practices, these are simply not enough,” Facebook spokeswoman Jodi Seth said in a statement. “People around the globe deserve to know that their information is secure and Facebook will keep urging the U.S. Government to be more transparent about its practices and more protective of civil liberties.”

Zuckerberg called the president last week to vent his frustrations

after a news report said the NSA had mimicked Facebook pages to trick intelligence targets into downloading malicious software.

The story, which the NSA has disputed, first appeared in the Intercept, a news organization started this year by, among others, Pierre Omidyar, founder of eBay; and Glenn Greenwald, a former reporter for the British newspaper The Guardian.

“When our engineers work tirelessly to improve security, we imagine we’re protecting you against criminals, not our own government,” Zuckerberg wrote in a blog post on March 13, the day after the news report.

Friday’s meeting — which also included executives from Google, Netflix, Dropbox, Palantir and Box — was one of a series organized by the White House in recent months to discuss NSA and privacy issues with business executives, foreign leaders and privacy advocates.

The financial costs of the NSA revelations, though impossible to quantify fully, have been in the many billions of dollars, according to the technology industry, which has been one of the fastest-growing sectors of the U.S. economy during years of overall sluggishness.



Pennsylvania Democratic congressional candidate Manan Trivedi speaks at Bryn Mawr College in Bryn Mawr, Pa., on Oct. 28, 2010. Republican retirements in a half-dozen competitive districts provide Democrats with plenty of opportunities for net gains.

Democrats see openings in congressional departures

By DONNA CASSATA
The Associated Press

MCLEAN, Va. — House Democrats’ hopes of mitigating the damage in the midterm elections lie in the fast-growing suburbs of northern Virginia, the cities and towns near Iowa’s covered bridges of Madison County and not far from New Jersey’s Pine Barrens.

No one is suggesting that Democrats can net the 17 seats needed to capture control of the House from the Republicans — not against the harsh political headwinds of traditional losses for the president’s party in midterms, an unpopular health care law and President Barack Obama’s low approval ratings.

The Democrats’ loss in a competitive special election in Florida recently only added to the party’s woes. Republicans were gleeful.

“I think we’re in for a tsunami-type election in 2014,” Republican

National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus proclaimed last week.

Yet Republican retirements in a half-dozen swing districts provided Democrats with an opportunity to grab a handful of seats this November. The party has cleared a path for its preferred candidates, while the GOP faces some messy primaries that underscore the divide between conservatives and the establishment.

The numbers are daunting. In the November 2010 midterms, Republicans delivered what Obama called a “shellacking,” netting 63 seats in the House while gaining six in the Senate. In March of that year, the president’s approval rating was 53 percent before sliding to 47 percent in November, according to Associated Press-GfK polling.

Surveys this month put Obama in the low 40s.

“Polls numbers are not where

we would want them to be, but Republican congressional poll numbers are at an historic low and a fraction of where the president is. So everything is relative,” said Rep. Steve Israel, D-N.Y., chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee.

Republicans hold a 233-199 advantage in the House, with three vacancies.

House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., insisted on Thursday that the 4-year-old health care law would be a political winner for the party in the fall. Republicans, who point to higher premiums and canceled policies, are certain it will cost Democrats House seats and possibly the Senate.

Democrats are upbeat about their chances in Iowa’s 3rd Congressional District, where Republican Rep. Tom Latham, a close confidante of House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, made the surprise announcement that he would

retire after 10 terms. Obama won the district by 4 percentage points in 2012.

New Jersey, where two-term Republican Rep. Jon Runyan is retiring, offers a chance for Democrat Aimee Belgard, a member of the Burlington County Board of Freeholders, the county’s governing body. Republicans favor Tom MacArthur, a former mayor, but unsuccessful Senate candidate Steve Lonegan is pressing ahead with a challenge to what he calls “the liberal wing of the GOP.”

Obama won the district by 4 percentage points in 2012. The primary is June 3.

Democrats in the Philadelphia suburbs are counting on Dr. Manan Trivedi, an Iraq War veteran, to flip a seat held by Republican Rep. Jim Gerlach for six terms. Ryan Costello, a lawyer and Chester County commissioner, is the likely GOP nominee. That primary is May 20.

Obama looks to women for allies in fall midterms

By ZACHARY A. GOLDFARB
The Washington Post

ORLANDO, Fla. — President Barack Obama needs women this fall, and on Thursday he made the case that they need him, too.

Addressing students, mothers, teachers and workers at a community college here, Obama began a monthlong focus on women’s issues ahead of the fall midterm elections, emphasizing how his administration’s proposals — including raising the minimum wage and strengthening equal-pay laws — would help women.

“Soon, for the first time, America’s highly educated workforce will be made up of more women than men,” he said. “But the thing is, our economy hasn’t caught up to that reality yet. So we’ve got too many women who work hard to support themselves and their families ... [while] facing unfair choices or outdated workplace policies that are holding them back.”

Obama and his advisers described the focus on women as a response to challenges in the real economy, but the politics of the effort were also abundantly clear. Democrats are focusing on bread-and-butter issues such as the minimum wage and equal pay for women to draw a contrast with Republicans.

It is critical for Democrats — who face a daunting electoral map — to maximize turnout at the polls among women, who have traditionally given the party an edge.

In 2006, 2008 and 2012, Democrats beat Republicans among women by 9 to 13 percentage points. But losing that advantage can be catastrophic: Democrats were walloped in the 2010 midterm cycle, when Republicans edged out a 1 percentage point win among women.

This year, Democrats continue to the hold the lead among women by 50 percent to 42 percent, according to a Washington Post-ABC News poll.

NATION



ROSS D. FRANKLIN/AP

Former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton speaks at a student conference for the Clinton Global Initiative University at Arizona State University on Friday in Tempe, Ariz.

Clintons urge students to be involved in the world

By KEN THOMAS
The Associated Press

TEMPE, Ariz. — Bill and Hillary Clinton teamed up with Arizona Sen. John McCain at the start of an annual meeting of college students on Friday, putting on stage a former president, a longtime Republican presidential nominee and perhaps a future White House candidate.

The former secretary of state, who is considering a White House campaign, opened the Clinton Global Initiative University at Arizona State University by encouraging students to use their talents and skills to solve problems both big and small.

"We are going to make sure the millennial generation really is the participation generation," Clinton said to cheers.

As the former first lady and New York senator weighs a presidential campaign, the summit of students brought together plenty of political wattage. Bill Clinton, who served two terms in the White House, moderated a panel on civic participation that featured McCain, who sought the presidency in 2000 and 2008, losing in his second campaign to Barack Obama.

The former president used the

occasion to needle the Republican lawmaker, joking that McCain was a "good friend of Hillary's and mine, although we permit him to deny it at election time."

During a discussion of the conflicts in Syria and Ukraine, McCain returned the favor, crediting Clinton for his decision to intervene in Bosnia during his presidency. "I think you made the right decisions," McCain said.

'We are going to make sure the millennial generation really is the participation generation.'

Hillary Clinton
former secretary of state

as and universities gathered for the weekend conference. Participating students pledge to carry out service projects and ventures aimed at addressing problems across the globe. Policy sessions on the agenda included ways of improving health care, immigrant and refugee rights and the environment.

By JACK GILLUM
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Police across the country may be intercepting phone calls or text messages to find suspects using a technology tool known as Stingray. But they're refusing to turn over details about its use or heavily censoring files when they do.

Police say Stingray, a suitcase-size device that pretends it's a cell tower, is useful for catching criminals, but that's about all they'll say.

For example, they won't disclose details about contracts with the device's manufacturer, Harris Corp., insisting they are protecting both police tactics and commercial secrets. The secrecy — at times imposed by nondisclosure agreements signed by police — is pitting obligations under private contracts against government transparency laws.

Even in states with strong open-records laws, including Florida and Arizona, little is known about police use of Stingray and any rules governing it.

A Stingray device tricks all cellphones in an area into electronically identifying themselves and transmitting data to police rather than the nearest phone company's tower. Because documents about Stingrays are regularly censored, it's not immediately clear what information the devices could capture, such as the contents of phone conversations and text messages, what they routinely do capture based on how they're configured or how often they might be used.

In one of the rare court cases involving the device, the FBI acknowledged in 2011 that so-called cell site simulator technology affects innocent users in the area where it's operated, not just a suspect police are seeking.

Earlier this month, journalist Beau Hodai and the American Civil Liberties Union of Arizona sued the Tucson Police Department, alleging in court documents that police didn't comply with the state's public-records law because they did not fully



AP

Local police may be tracking people's cellphones with a device that captures data from every cellphone in a surrounding area.

disclose Stingray-related records and allowed Harris to dictate what information could be made public.

Revelations about surveillance programs run by the federal National Security Agency have driven a sustained debate since last summer on the balance between privacy and government intrusion. Classified NSA documents leaked to news organizations showed the NSA was collecting telephone records, emails and video chats of millions of Americans who were not suspected of crimes.

That debate has extended to state and local governments. News organizations in Palm Springs, Calif.; Tallahassee, Fla.; Sacramento, Calif.; and Pittsburgh are among those that have been denied records about Stingrays or Stingray-like devices, including details of contracts that Harris has with government agencies.

In a response to a records request from the Tallahassee Democrat newspaper about Florida's use of cell-tracking technology, the state's top police agency provided a four-page, heavily censored document signed by a police investigator. The newspaper reported that the document referred

to guidelines concerning the purchase of items and sought the department's agreement to the "provisions/content of the Non-Disclosure Agreement."

The Desert Sun, of Palm Springs, made a similar request to the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, which said it had to maintain secrecy even though the newspaper found information online about cell site simulators.

And in Sacramento, the local sheriff's office told a TV station it would "be inappropriate for us to comment about any agency that may be using the technology" in light of a Harris nondisclosure agreement.

Many of the requests were part of an effort by Gannett Co. Inc. to investigate the devices; Gannett publishes USA Today and owns other newspapers and television stations around the country.

"I don't see how public agencies can make up an agreement with a private company that breaks state law," said David Cuillier, the director of the University of Arizona's Journalism school and a national expert on public-records laws. "We can't have the commercial sector running our governments for us. These public agencies need to be forthright and transparent."

Judge strikes down Michigan's ban on same-sex marriage

By ED WHITE
The Associated Press

DETROIT — Michigan's ban on gay marriage, approved by voters in a landslide in 2004, was scratched from the state constitution by a federal judge who said the ballot box is no defense to a law that tramples the rights of same-sex couples.

Clerks who handle marriage licenses in Michigan's 83 counties said they would start granting

them to gays and lesbians — three as early as Saturday — although Attorney General Bill Schuette asked a higher court Friday to freeze the landmark ruling while an appeal is pursued. It was not known when a federal appeals court in Cincinnati would respond.

Schuette noted that the U.S. Supreme Court in January stepped in and suspended a similar decision that struck down Utah's gay-marriage ban.

"A stay would serve the public interest by preserving the status quo ... while preventing irreparable injury to the state and its citizens," he said.

The decision by U.S. District Judge Bernard Friedman was historic, following a two-week trial that explored attitudes and research about homosexual marriage and households led by same-sex couples. The judge rejected the conclusions of experts

hired by the state to defend the rationale behind a constitutional amendment that recognizes marriage only as between a man and a woman.

The attorney general's office emphasized the 59 percent approval by voters as well as tradition and child-rearing as reasons why the 2004 amendment should stand. Friedman, however, wasn't swayed.

He praised April DeBoer and Jayne Rowse, two Detroit-area

nurses who are raising three children with special needs. They filed a lawsuit in 2012 because they're barred from jointly adopting each other's children.

Joint adoption is reserved for married heterosexual couples in Michigan.

"In attempting to define this case as a challenge to 'the will of the people,' state defendants lost sight of what this case is truly about — people," the judge said.

NATION

Helco rotated before deadly Seattle crash, video shows

The Associated Press

SEATTLE — Video shows that a news helicopter that went down in Seattle and killed two people last week began rotating at take-off before it pitched forward in a fiery crash, the National Transportation Safety Board said.

The surveillance camera taken from three security camera recordings near the crash site shows the aircraft began rotating counterclockwise during takeoff Tuesday morning and rose slightly, nearly level, from a rooftop helipad, the agency said late Friday night in a preliminary report.

The helicopter continued rotating counterclockwise for about 360 degrees before it pitched forward, nose low. It "continued the counterclockwise rotation in a nose-low attitude until it disap-

peared from the camera's field of view," the agency said in its one-page statement.

Available video apparently did not show the actual crash on a street next to the Space Needle, where the KOMO-TV chopper burst into flames, setting several vehicles ablaze and spewing burning fuel down the street.

Multiple witnesses reported seeing the helicopter lift off and begin a counterclockwise rotation, then pitch downward, still rotating, and crash. They indicated the fire began after the crash, the NTSB said.

Witnesses earlier told reporters they heard unusual noises coming from the aircraft as it lifted off from the helipad atop KOMO's six-story headquarters after refueling. The initial NTSB report did not discuss any noises.

The helicopter came to rest on its right side, and "all major structural components" were located in the immediate area of the main wreckage, the NTSB said. Wreckage debris was found in a 340-foot radius of the main wreckage.

The initial report did not attempt to pinpoint a cause for the crash. A final report could take as long as a year, agency officials have said.

Agency investigators moved the wreckage to a secure hangar in Auburn, south of Seattle, where they are reconstructing the helicopter.

The wreck killed both men on board — pilot Gary Pfitzner, 59, and former KOMO photographer Bill Strothman, 62. The two worked for Helicopters Inc., of Cahokia, Ill., which owned the Eurocopter AS350 aircraft.



PROVIDED BY THE NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD/AP

National Transportation Safety Board investigator Josh Cawthra examines the tail rotor drive shaft from the news helicopter that crashed Tuesday in Seattle.

The agency continues combing through pilot and maintenance and company records associated with the flight, the NTSB's Dennis Hogenon said. Investigators are focusing on the helicopter's engine, the airframe, the pilot and the environment.

A Seattle man in a car, Richard Newman, 38, was seriously

burned when the helicopter crashed and caught fire. Newman underwent surgery Friday and afterward was reported back in intensive care in serious condition, a Harborview Medical Center spokeswoman said. He suffered burns covering nearly 20 percent of his body on his back and arms.

Poor aren't alone in living hand-to-mouth

The Washington Post

When you hear the term "paycheck to paycheck," you probably think of low-income households struggling to make ends meet. That's even the title of a new HBO documentary highlighting the plight of America's working poor.

But a paper released at the Brookings Institution's Brookings Panel on Economic Activity conference Friday finds that a sizable number of wealthier households are living paycheck to paycheck, too.

"The Wealthy Hand-to-Mouth," by economists at Princeton and New York University, found that roughly one-third of American households — 38 million — are living a paycheck-to-paycheck existence. These are families who had little to no liquid wealth in cash, savings accounts or checking accounts.

But the paper also finds that two-thirds of these households are not actually poor, although they resemble poor families in their lack of liquid wealth, they own

substantial holdings (\$50,000, on average) in illiquid assets. Because this money is locked up in things such as their houses, cars and retirement accounts, they can't easily access it when times get tough.

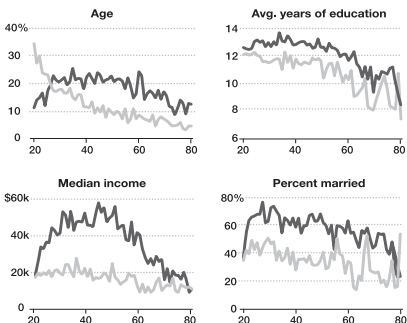
Demographically speaking, the wealthy hand-to-mouth are older, more educated and have substantially higher incomes than their poor counterparts. Perhaps the most striking difference: Although the poor hand-to-mouth tend to stay that way for long periods of time, wealthy hand-to-mouth status is transient, lasting an average of 2½ years.

There is an important policy consideration here: Economic stimulus programs typically target the poor because they are the most likely to immediately spend cash windfalls on necessities that they otherwise would be unable to buy. But this study implies that wealthier hand-to-mouth households, because they face similar monthly constraints on spending, would also respond positively to

Living paycheck to paycheck

The wealthy hand-to-mouth are older, better educated, make more money and are more likely to be married than the poor hand-to-mouth

Demographic characteristics, by age



SOURCE: "The Wealthy Hand-to-Mouth"

CHRISTOPHER INGRAM/HANNAH/THE WASHINGTON POST

economic stimulus.

The paper concludes that "in order to maximize the aggregate consumption response to fiscal

stimulus payments, the payments should feature more moderate phasing out with household income."

Man held in toe-sucking case in NC

The Charlotte Observer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Lincolnton police have arrested a man in connection with a toe-sucking case last week at a Wal-Mart store.

Michael A. Brown, 31, of Concord, N.C., was taken into custody Thursday night and was charged with misdemeanor assault on a female.

The arrest came several hours after police released a surveillance photo of the suspect leaving the store. Investigators said a police officer in the Stanly County town of Lenoir recognized Brown from the surveillance photo.

Brown is listed as a registered sex offender in North Carolina. Lincolnton police said Friday that Brown was charged with similar crimes in the past.

North Carolina prison records show Brown was convicted in February 2011 in Cabarrus County of a second-degree sex offense and served three years in prison.

Lincolnton police said the suspected toe-sucking incident took place about 11:15 a.m. Thursday.

Investigators said a man entered the store, approached a woman and said he was a podiatry student. The two began a conversation, police said, and the man talked the woman into trying on several pairs of shoes.

At one point, police said, the man held the woman's foot, put it into his mouth and sucked her toes.

The woman told police she thought the suspect was a Wal-Mart employee. The woman also said that after the toe-sucking, she became upset and the suspect offered to pay for her groceries. Um

Officials: Agent to be cleared in Fla. shooting of Chechen

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — A Department of Justice investigation will rule that an FBI agent was justified in using deadly force last May when he shot and killed Ibragim Todashev, a Chechen man connected to the brothers accused of carrying out the Boston Marathon bombing, according to law

enforcement officials.

The officials said that an independent investigation set to be released this week will also clear the agent, although the Florida prosecutor overseeing that probe denied Friday that he has come to a final conclusion on the shooting.

After a lengthy interrogation at his Orlando, Fla., apartment on

May 22, Todashev, 27, attacked the agent with a metal pole after first implicating himself in an unsolved 2011 triple murder, according to the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss reports that have not yet been released.

Officials said the male agent, who has not been identified, acted in self-defense. After To-

dashev charged, the agent shot him once, according to officials, who said Todashev then got up and was shot again several times. It's not clear what sparked the confrontation.

It also remains unclear whether the agent, who worked out of the FBI's Boston office, was alone with Todashev during the shooting.

NATION

Report: Calif. a top target for criminal enterprises

By DON THOMPSON
The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — California is the top target in the U.S. for international criminal enterprises that operate from safe havens in Eastern Europe, Africa and China, according to a report released Thursday.

Along with trafficking in drugs, guns and people, criminals are also turning to cybercrime to target wealthy, innovative businesses and financial institutions in the state, the report by the state attorney general says.

"We know that they use technology directly in a way that perpetrators and commits crimes — in particular, the crimes of hacking and data breaches and malware," California Attorney General Kamala Harris said as she released the report in Los Angeles.

The Los Angeles region is particularly vulnerable to digital piracy, she said, because it produces much of the nation's movies and other mass-market media.

'Their impact is tremendous, in the hundreds of millions of dollars from small businesses.'

Michel R. Moore
Los Angeles police
assistant chief

It says California leads all states in the number of computer systems hacked or infected by malware; victims of Internet crimes and identity theft; and the amount of financial losses suffered as a result of online crimes.

The report says many of the breaches have been tied to criminal organizations operating out of locations including Russia, Ukraine, China and Nigeria.

"Their impact is tremendous, in the hundreds of millions of dollars from small businesses, mom-and-pop operations, who lose their very existence to a financial crime, to a scheme that's being originated out of Romania, out of Egypt, out of Israel, out of parts well off our shores," Los Angeles Police Assistant Chief Michel R. Moore said at the news conference.

California's gross domestic product of \$2 trillion, along with its significant foreign trade activity and its border with Mexico, also make the state a target for international money-laundering schemes.

The report estimates that more than \$30 billion is laundered through the state economy each year.



Firefighters work to put out a fire at the Mariner's Cove Inn in Point Pleasant Beach, N.J., early Friday.

NJ motel fire investigated

Cause not known of early morning blaze that killed 4, injured 8

By WAYNE PARRY
The Associated Press

POINT PLEASANT BEACH, N.J. — An early morning trip to the bathroom saved Joe Frystock's life.

The New Jersey man lost his home in Superstorm Sandy and had been staying in temporary accommodations since then. Early Friday morning, he was among 40 people staying at a Point Pleasant Beach motel when a raging fire broke out, killing four people and injuring eight.

Investigators ramped up their probe into the cause of the fire on Saturday, but a determination is not expected for several days.

Frystock, who has diabetes and frequently has to use the bathroom, said he woke up early Friday to find the motel ablaze. As he fled to safety, he pounded on doors and windows, warning fellow motel residents to get out.

He left with the clothes on his back, his insulin kit and nothing more. "I lost everything — again — but I'm alive," he said.

He said his home in nearby Brick, N.J., was flooded with 6 feet of water during Superstorm Sandy that tore through his deck "like it was tissue paper." He has lived in rental properties since the storm.

"It's been an Odyssey ever since Oct. 29, 2012," he said, referring to the date of the destructive storm. "We secured other housing but that fell through" because of the possible threat of additional flooding in the future. "Now everything is gone for a second time," he said.

Frystock and the other occupants of the Mariner's Cove Motor Inn were given temporary shelter in other motels in Point Pleasant Beach on Friday.

An intense investigation into the cause of the early



COURTESY OF THE OCEAN COUNTY (N.J.) PROSECUTORS OFFICE/AP

The inn's residents include Superstorm Sandy victims who were staying there because their homes remain uninhabitable.

morning blaze began Friday afternoon after the last of the four bodies was removed and taken away for an autopsy. The victims had not been positively identified Friday.

Investigators used dogs specially trained to react to the presence of gasoline or other petroleum products that might have been used to start or accelerate a fire. The dogs sniffed at charred items and building debris at the curb and alongside the motel's outdoor swimming pool but showed no obvious reaction to anything.

The blaze was the second major fire at the Jersey shore in seven months, following a September blaze that destroyed about a third of the boardwalk in Seaside Heights and Seaside Park.

NJ teen climbs spire of 1 WTC

By JENNIFER PELTZ
AND DAVID PORTER
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — A teenage thrill-chaser slipped through a fence, eluded a security guard and climbed to the top of 1 World Trade Center, authorities said Thursday as concerns swirled about a seemingly audacious breach at what is supposed to be one of the world's most secure sites.

Justin Casquejo, 16, was described by a friend as an adventure-seeker who loves to climb places Casquejo spent about two hours early last Sunday atop the symbolic and unfinished 1,776-foot tower, authorities said.

'I went to the rooftop and climbed the ladder all the way to the antenna.'

Justin Casquejo

He's not accused of doing any damage, but the alleged escape stirred what-ifs about the notion of someone being able to infiltrate the nation's tallest skyscraper.

"Obviously, it was shocking and troubling," said Mayor Bill de Blasio, "and I don't know how possibly it could have happened."

Casquejo was being held without bail after an arraignment Monday on a criminal trespassing charge. His lawyer, Pamela Griffith, declined to comment. Nobody answered the door Thursday at his Weehawken, N.J., home, and an effort to reach him through someone who answered a possible phone number for him wasn't immediately successful.

Casquejo told police he simply walked around the construction site and found a way through the scaffolding around 4 a.m., according to a court complaint. He squeezed through a 1-foot opening in a fence, said Joe Pentangelo, a spokesman for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey police.

The court complaint quotes Casquejo as saying he climbed to the sixth floor, rode an elevator to the 88th and took the stairs to the 104th. There, he got past an inattentive security guard, a private contractor employee who has since been fired, Pentangelo said.

Casquejo told police, "I went to the rooftop and climbed the ladder all the way to the antenna," according to the complaint.

WABC-TV reported that he took pictures from the top of the building. Authorities said they were trying to determine his motive. He was arrested in the building by a port authority police officer, and his name and phone were seized, Pentangelo said.

Calif. authorities find 3 starving children

The Associated Press

SALINAS, Calif. — Three starving children — including one who was chained to the floor to prevent her from getting food — have been found in the squalid home of a Northern California couple, authorities said.

All three — two boys and a girl — were taken into protective custody, and one was hospitalized, Monterey County Sheriff Scott Miller said Friday.

Authorities discovered them in the Salinas, Calif., home on March 14 after two of the young people

missed appointments, according to several published reports.

"It was a particularly heinous case," Miller told the Monterey Herald. The children had "hardly eaten for months."

The boys are 3 and 5 years old, and the girl is 8, authorities said, and they all exhibited bruises and signs of other physical as well as emotional abuse.

The girl, who appeared to have suffered the most extreme abuse, was chained to the floor to prevent her from getting any food, they said.

"It seems that the little girl was

the major target of this abuse," Miller continued, adding that she looked "like a concentration camp victim." The girl was in the hospital for about five days, he said, and seemed "traumatized."

Eraca Dwan Craig, 31, and Christian Jessica Deana, 44, were both arrested at the scene on suspicion of felony child cruelty, false imprisonment and other charges.

The women, who are domestic partners, were both arraigned in Monterey County Court on Tuesday and are scheduled for a preliminary hearing on March 28.

UKRAINE UNREST



ALEXANDER ZEMLIANCHENKO JR./AP

An elderly Communist Party supporter holds a banner depicting Soviet dictator Josef Stalin during a rally Saturday in support of Crimea's joining Russia near Red Square in Moscow.

Are tougher penalties against Russia to come?

By DEB RIECHMANN
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. penalties against a Russian bank and the Kremlin's inner circle have been pinched Moscow, but their effectiveness is in doubt if the goal is to get President Vladimir Putin to roll back his forces from Crimea or to prevent more land grabs.

Putin has mocked the punitive steps President Barack Obama has taken so far.

He made jokes of Obama's decision to freeze the assets of businessmen with close ties to Putin, as well as Bank Rossiya, which provides them support. Putin retaliated with travel restrictions on nine U.S. officials and lawmakers, including Sen. John McCain. "I guess this means my spring break in Siberia is off," said McCain, R-Ariz.

For now, Putin said there is no need for further Russian moves, even as his Foreign Ministry said Russia would "respond harshly."

Putin claims to have no plans for

further incursions into Ukraine or elsewhere in the region. But he's not planning to reverse Russia's annexation of Crimea, either.

The U.S. and Europe are left to consider the possibility of tougher measures on Russia's energy and banking sectors. That could backfire if Moscow seized American or other foreign assets or cut exports of natural gas to Europe, which is heavily dependent on Russia for energy.

"If Russia doesn't do anything other than what they've done so far with Crimea, I think the Obama administration will probably stand pat with the sanctions that it has already imposed," said Richard Fontaine, president of the Washington-based Center for a New American Security.

"I think they are waiting to see if this is the end of the Russian adventurism, or if there is more to come, and then they will react with more sanctions accordingly."

By taking a step-by-step approach, the U.S. is giving Russia a chance to resolve the crisis,

Fontaine said. "The problem with that is that Putin has shown absolutely no appetite to take any off-ramp," he said.

Just the threat of harsher penalties has dimmed the outlook for the fragile Russian economy. Russian stocks were under pressure Friday as a second credit rating agency put the country on notice of a possible downgrade. Visa and MasterCard stopped serving two Russian banks, including Bank Rossiya.

The Russian stock market has lost more than 10 percent this year.

Also on Friday, Russia said it might scrap plans to tap international markets for money this year.

The European Union imposed penalties against 12 more people Friday, bringing its list of those facing visa bans and asset freezes to more than 30. They include one of Russia's deputy prime ministers, two Putin advisers and the speakers of both houses of parliament.

to overcome the internal Ukrainian crisis" and ensure the respect for human rights there.

Russia had raised concerns about the situation in Russian-speaking south-eastern regions including the Black Sea peninsula of Crimea. Moscow on Friday formally sealed Crimea's annexation less than a week after a

Ukrainian air base in Crimea stormed

The Associated Press

BELBEK AIR BASE, Crimea — Pro-Russian forces stormed a Ukrainian air force base in Crimea, firing shots and smashing through concrete walls with armored personnel carriers. At least one person was wounded, the base commander said.

An APC also smashed open the front gate of the Belbek base near the port city of Sevastopol, according to footage provided by the Ukrainian Defense ministry. Two ambulances arrived and then departed shortly after, and at least one of them was carrying what appeared to be a wounded person, an Associated Press journalist said.

The Ukrainian commander of the base, Yuliy Mamchur, said there was at least one injury. He called his men together, they sang the Ukrainian national anthem and then stood at ease. He said they are going to turn over their weapons.

Russian forces have been seizing Ukrainian military facilities for several days in the Black Sea peninsula, which voted a week ago to secede and join Russia.

Elsewhere, more than 5,000 pro-Russian residents of a major city in Ukraine's east demonstrated in favor of holding a refer-

endum on whether to seek to split off and become part of Russia.

The rally in Donetsk came less than a week after the Ukrainian region of Crimea approved secession in a referendum regarded as illegitimate by Western countries. After the referendum, Russia formally annexed Crimea.

With Crimea now effectively under the control of Russian forces, which ring Ukrainian military bases on the strategic Black Sea peninsula, concern is rising that Ukraine's eastern regions will agitate for a similar move.

Russia has brought large military contingents to areas near the border with eastern Ukraine. Russian President Vladimir Putin has said there is no intention to move into eastern Ukraine, but the prospect of violence between pro- and anti-secession groups in the east could be used as a pretext for sending in troops.

Eastern Ukraine is the heartland of Ukraine's economically vital heavy industry and mining. It's also the support base for Viktor Yanukovich, the Ukrainian president who fled to Russia last month after three months of protests in the capital, Kiev, triggered by his decision not to sign an agreement with the European Union.



IAN SKEETARE/AP

Soldiers in unmarked uniforms sit atop an armored personnel carrier at the gate of the Belbek base near the port city of Sevastopol, Crimea, on Saturday. Pro-Russian forces stormed the Ukrainian base, firing shots and smashing through concrete walls with APCs.

Russia hopeful for efforts of observers from European agency

By NATALIYA VASILYEVA
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — Russia's foreign ministry said on Saturday that it hopes a monitoring mission in Ukraine will help ease the tensions in Ukraine.

Ukraine was engulfed in anti-government rallies for three

months before President Viktor Yanukovich fled the country and the interim government was appointed.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Alexander Lukashevich said in a statement on Friday that Moscow hopes that the 200-strong team of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe "will help

referendum that overwhelmingly voted to join Russia.

Pro-Russian forces last week stopped OSCE military observers from entering Crimea. The organization on Friday did not specify whether the observers will go to Crimea. U.S. chief envoy Daniel Baer said the observers should have access to

the territory because Crimea remains Ukrainian to the rest of the world.

Lukashevich said on Saturday insisted that the OSCE's mission "will reflect the new political and legal order and will not cover Crimea and Sevastopol which became part of Russia."

WORLD

US first lady in China uses soft touch on thorny issues

By KRISNA THOMPSON

The Washington Post

BEIJING — On the heels of a meeting here with China's president and his wife, Michelle Obama on Saturday will discuss the importance of the free exchange of ideas on the Internet, gently rebuking China by comparing its practices to those in the United States.

The U.S. first lady will also broach the issue of censorship from a personal vantage point — discussing the criticism that surfaces about herself and her husband as part of the robust public dialogue in the United States, aides said.

"It can be messy," said Tina Tchen, the first lady's chief of staff. "She and her husband have certainly experienced it, but would not trade it for the world."

The planned remarks at Peking University illustrate Obama's decidedly soft-diplomacy approach during her week-long trip to China, sending gentle messages on a few thorny issues while avoiding any hint of lecturing.

The first lady had clear from the outset that she had not come to China to raise political demand or give a speech about tensions between the two nations. She is "not a lecturer in any setting," Tchen said, adding that Obama plans to speak from her own experience.

It is a fine line to walk in a country where online services such as Twitter are hard to access and news websites are routinely blocked.

Cheng Li, director of the John L. Thornton China Center at the Brookings Institution, said he hopes Obama will find a way to discuss American values without embarrassing the Chinese, attempting persuasion through personality.

"Humiliation or lecturing the Chinese in the public domain are things we should avoid," Li said. "You will make the Chinese very suspicious and angry. It humiliates the nation, the general public."

But human rights activists wonder whether Obama's subtle message will be loud enough to get through. Hu Jia, a dissident who has been arrested for participating in protests, said he would like Obama to be bolder and meet with someone such as Liu Xia, the wife of Nobel Peace Prize winner Lu Xiangbo, one of China's most well-known democracy activists.

"As the promoter of American values, and the wife of the Nobel Peace Prize winner, a public figure who attracts tremendous attention, maybe visiting Liu Xia is too much because it may damage the U.S.-China relations, but she can ask someone to send an invitation to invite Liu Xia [to] an event she hosted," Hu said. "It doesn't cost much, but a little gesture like that may be a great help."



Libyan militias from towns throughout the country's west parade through Tripoli in 2012. Since the country's civil war in 2011, militias have grown in power to the point where they even strong-arm parliament.

In Libya, it's guns gone wild

Out-of-control arms trafficking fuels unrest in region

By MAGGIE MICHAEL

The Associated Press

TRIPOLI, Libya — At the heart of the Libyan capital, the open-air Fish Market was once a place where residents went to buy everything from meat and seafood to clothes and pets. Now it's Tripoli's biggest arms market, with tables displaying pistols and assault rifles. Ask a vendor, and he can pull out bigger machine guns that sell for thousands of dollars.

Libya, where hundreds of militias hold sway and the central government is virtually powerless, is awash in millions of weapons with no control over their trafficking. The arms free-for-all fuels not only Libya's instability but also stokes conflicts around the region as guns are smuggled through the country's wide-open borders to militants fighting in insurgencies and wars stretching from Syria to West Africa.

The lack of control is at times stunning. Last month, militia fighters stole a planeload of weapons sent by Russia for Libya's military when it stopped to refuel at Tripoli International Airport on route to a base in the south. The fighters surrounded the plane on the tarmac and looted the shipment of automatic weapons and ammunition, Hashim Bishr, an official with a Tripoli security body under the Interior Ministry, told The Associated Press.

In a further indignity, the fighters belonged to a militia officially assigned by the government to protect the airport, since regular forces are too weak to do it.

Only a few weeks earlier, another militia seized a weapons' shipment that landed at Tripoli's Mitiga Airport meant for the military's 1st Battalion, Bishr said. Among the weapons were heavy anti-aircraft guns, which are a pervasive weapon among the militias and are usually mounted on the back of pickup trucks.

The weapons chaos has alarmed Europe and the United States. At a conference in Rome this month, Western and Arab diplomats, including U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, pressed Libyan officials to reach some political consensus so the international community can help the government collect weapons and rebuild the military and police.

The problem is that Europe and the U.S. simply don't know who to talk to in Libya, a Western diplomat in Tripoli told the AP.

"It's about whether they are capable of receiving

the help," he said, speaking on condition of anonymity to talk about the discussions at the conference. He pointed to an international effort to build storage houses in which to collect weapons in the western Libyan town of Gharyan. That project has stumbled, he said, because of the problem of determining "who is in charge and whom we work with."

The 42-year rule of Libyan strongman Moammar Gadhafi left the country without solid political institutions. Since his fall and death in the 2011 civil war, the instability has only spiraled. The rebel brigades that formed to fight him have turned into powerful militias, many based on tribe, region, city or even neighborhood, that often battle each other as they carve out zones of control. Some have hard-line Islamist or even al-Qaida-inspired ideologies.

The militias outgun the military and police. The government has to hire militias to take up security duties at airports, seaports, hospitals and government buildings.

The militias outgun the military and police, which were shattered in the civil war. The government has to hire militias to take up security duties at airports, seaports, hospitals and government buildings. A militia assigned to protect oil facilities in the east turned around and took over the facilities last year, demanding greater autonomy for the country's eastern region, and the vital oil industry has been virtually shut down since.

Libya's politicians are themselves deeply divided, broadly along Islamist and anti-Islamist lines, each backed by rival militias, turning politics into an armed conflict. Militias, for example, have besieged parliament to force passage of particular laws and once briefly kidnapped the prime minister.

Smuggling abroad is also big business. Abdel-Bast Haroun, a former top intelligence official, said tribes and militias that control the eastern, western, and southern borders are engaged in arms smuggling. A report released in March by United Nations Panel of Experts said weapons that originated in Libya were found in 14 countries, often reaching militant groups.

Double bombing kills at least 7 people in Iraq

BAGHDAD — Iraqi officials said a double bombing has killed seven people in a city north of Baghdad.

Police said the attack took place on Saturday morning, when a roadside bomb exploded in a commercial street in the northern city of Tikrit. Minutes later, a car bomb struck policemen who had arrived to inspect the first blast.

The officials said five policemen and two civilians were killed and 18 people were wounded in the bombings. Tikrit is 80 miles north of Baghdad.

Syria: Army ambushes rebels from Jordan

BEIRUT — Syrian state media said government forces have ambushed a group of rebels who crossed into the country from neighboring Jordan and killed several of the fighters.

SANA news agency said on Saturday that the rebels were members of the al-Qaida-linked Nusra Front.

It said they were attacked near the town of Adra, northeast of Damascus, and that most of the rebels died in the ambush. The report said their weapons were seized.

Opposition activists also reported a government attack on rebels in Adra. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the ambush occurred late Friday and that at least 10 people were killed.

Seoul says 30 rockets launched by N. Korea

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea launched 30 short-range rockets into the sea off its east coast Saturday, South Korea said, in the latest in a series of apparent protests against ongoing U.S.-South Korean military drills.

Such short-range launches are normally seen as routine, but there have been an unusual number this year coinciding with the annual, routine war drill by Washington and Seoul that North Korea claims are invasion preparation.

A week ago, North Korea launched 25 rockets with a range of about 44 miles, South Korea said, and earlier this month a North Korean artillery launch happened minutes before a Chinese plane reportedly carrying 202 people flew in the same area.

3 Palestinians killed in clash with Israeli army

JENIN, West Bank — Israeli troops killed three Palestinians in an early morning raid that was followed by a clash with angry protesters in a West Bank town on Saturday, the military and Palestinian security officials said, in the deadliest incident in months.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas' office condemned the violence, calling it "part of an Israeli policy that aims to destroy everything," and asked the American administration to intervene to save the peace talks.

From The Associated Press

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Gun now at coffee shop for barista defense

WA SPOKANE — The next robber who tries to hold up Jitterbug Java in Spokane is likely to face a gun.

After three robberies in a month, the owner says there always will be a gun at the coffee stand.

Owner Sara Chapel said some of her employees are already bringing their own guns to work.

On Sunday, a man aggressively tried to open a window and appeared to have a gun. The barista kept the window locked, grabbed her gun and called police. The man took off before police arrived.

Sleepy man's 'gun' turns out to be a tattoo

ME NORRIDGEWOCK — Police armed with assault rifles descended on a man's home after members of a tree removal crew he'd told to clear off his property reported that he had a gun.

Turns out the "gun" the tree crew had seen on Michael Smith was just a life-sized tattoo of a handgun on his stomach.

Smith, who works nights, was asleep when the tree crew contracted by a utility to trim branches near power lines, woke him up about 10 a.m. Tuesday.

He went outside shirtless and yelled at the workers to leave. When he's not wearing a shirt, the tattoo looks like a gun tucked into his waistband.

Smith said the tattoo has never been a problem before.

Police didn't charge him.

University system approves tobacco ban

GA ATLANTA — The Georgia Board of Regents has voted to implement a system-wide ban on the use of all forms of tobacco products.

University System of Georgia officials said in a statement Wednesday that the ban also will apply to events being hosted by institutions within the system.

Vice Chancellor for Human Resources Marion Fredrick said University System officials feel responsible for promoting the health and well-being of students, staff and visitors.

Officials said enforcement of the policy will be left up to the presidents of each institution and that visitors who don't comply with the policy may be asked to leave campus.

Officials said the University System of Georgia also will provide information on tobacco cessation for those looking for help.

Real-life superhero in trouble after publicity

MI FLINT — Publicity over a dispute between two men over leadership of a costume band of self-professed superheroes ended up getting one of them into trouble again.

Adam Besso, who hails from the Detroit area and is nicknamed "Bee Sting," pleaded guilty

THE CENSUS

\$5,500

The value of an autographed wrestling shoe once worn by Hulk Hogan that was stolen from the professional wrestler's Clearwater, Fla., shop on Sunday and has been returned. Police say a Michigan woman called the store Thursday, saying she wanted to return the shoe and that she "had done a stupid thing." No charges have been filed, but an investigation continues.



MIKE LAWRENCE, THE GLEANER/AP

Being Ben

Shayna Conley adjusts her tricorn hat Thursday as she portrays Benjamin Franklin in a Wax Museum in Henderson, Ky. Third-grade students researched famous Americans for their choice, created posters of facts, designed costumes and wrote speeches that reflected what they learned.

last month to leaving Michigan without permission of his probation agent. He's to be sentenced March 31.

Besso said authorities should have better things to do than pursue him. Probation officials in part cited Facebook posts.

In an article in early February by The Detroit News, Besso also indicated that he drove with a suspended license. The article highlighted a rift between Besso and Mark Williams, who dresses up as Batman to patrol the northern Michigan community of Petoskey.

Police make arrests in Kiss mask vandalism

NJ SADDLE BROOK — Police have arrested two teenagers and identified two others suspected of trashing more than two dozen cars while wearing masks similar to the makeup used by the rock group Kiss.

Saddle Brook police say the four caused \$40,000 in damage at SB Maaco Auto Body Shop earlier

this month.

Two of the boys are from Garfield and the others are from Elmwood Park and Rochelle Park.

Their names have not been released because they're juveniles. Security video showed the four used metal pipes, a fire extinguisher and a shovel to smash windshields and windows during a 20-minute rampage.

The white masks feature black stars over the eye area.

Police say driver tried escaping, crashed twice

VT CAVENDISH — Vermont police say when they tried to pull over a woman, she didn't comply, crashed twice, fled on foot and hid in a brook behind a pile of snow and ice.

Police said Elizabeth Stuart of North Pomfret did not stop when troopers activated their siren on Route 131 in Perkinsville. She eventually lost control of her vehicle while police were in pursuit and crashed into the guardrails before stopping in the road. Ac-

cording to police, she refused to exit the vehicle and began driving. She crashed again, this time into a telephone pole.

Police said Stuart fled and hid in a brook, behind a snow pile, before they located her.

Stuart received treatment for hypothermia. Police said she was cited for leaving the scene of an accident and other violations.

Girl discharges pepper spray canister in class

NM LAS CRUCES — A student discharged a pepper spray canister in a Las Cruces middle school classroom, resulting in several students needing treatment for inflammation.

Police said preliminary information indicates the girl got the canister from another student and may not have known what it was.

No serious injuries to the teacher and 26 students in the eighth-grade classroom were reported as result of the Thursday incident. The classroom was evacuated and school maintenance person-

nel used a large fan to disperse the pepper spray.

Man falls through ice while trying to save dog

NJ ROXBURY — Two firefighters came to the aid of a man who fell through the ice on a northern New Jersey lake while trying to rescue his dog.

Roxbury police said the 57-year-old township resident went into Horseshoe Lake about 3:30 p.m. Sunday. He was taken to a hospital for treatment, but his injuries were not believed to be life-threatening.

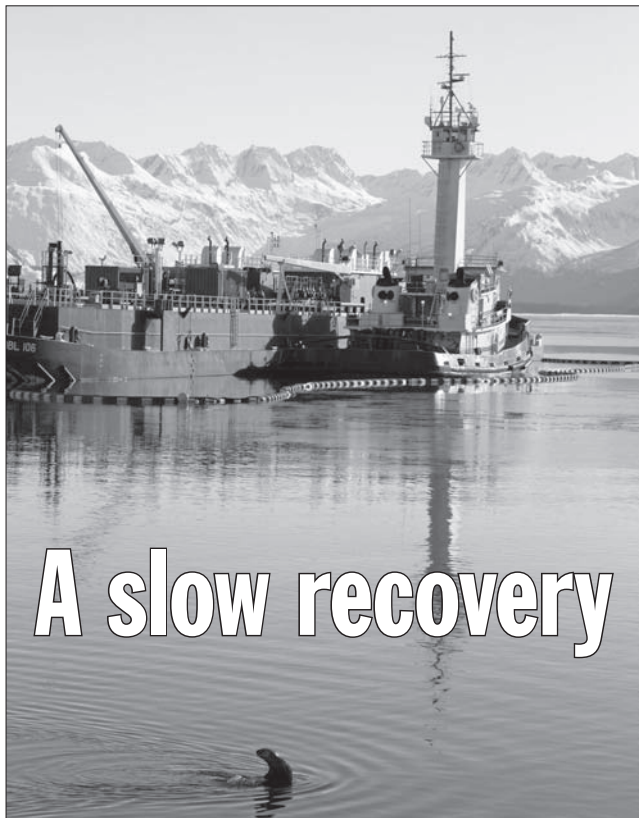
The man was about 30 feet from the shore when he fell through the ice. He had gone after his dog, who was able to rescue himself.

The two firefighters soon responded and quickly made their way onto the ice. The man was pulled from the water moments later.

The man's name was not released.

From wire reports

NATION



A slow recovery

A sea otter swims in the bay last month near the ferry dock in Valdez, Alaska.

AP photos



Clockwise from above left: Crude oil from the 987-foot tanker Exxon Valdez swirls on the surface of Alaska's Prince William Sound near Naked Island after the March 24, 1989, spill; a sea otter is spotted swimming in Valdez harbor after the spill; an oil-soaked bird gets an examination.



A quarter-century later, effects of Exxon Valdez spill still linger

By DAN JOLING
The Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — Before the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in 2010 in the Gulf of Mexico, there was the Exxon Valdez disaster in Alaska — at the time the largest oil spill in the U.S.

The 987-foot tanker, carrying 53 million gallons of crude, struck Bligh Reef at 12:04 a.m. on March 24, 1989. Within hours, it unleashed an estimated 10.8 million gallons of thick, toxic crude oil into the water. Storms and currents then smeared it over 1,300 miles of shoreline.

For a generation of people around the world, the spill was seared into their memories by images of fouled coastline in Prince William Sound — of sea otters, herring and birds soaked in oil, of workers painstakingly washing crude off the rugged beaches.

Twenty-five years later, most of the species have recovered, said Robert Spies, a chief science adviser to governments on the oil spill restoration program from 1989 to 2002. But some wildlife, as well as the people who live in the region, are still struggling.

Here's a look at what's changed since the spill:

Fishermen

Bernie Culbertson was preparing to fish cod when the Exxon Valdez ran aground. With oil in the water, fishing came to a standstill and life for he and other fishermen drastically changed.

"The bottom fell out of the price of fish," he said. Pink salmon that sold for 80 cents per pound fell to 8 cents per pound. Consumers turned to farm fish or tuna out of fear of tainted salmon. His boat caught 2.5 million pounds of pinks one season and lost money.

Culbertson turned to other fisheries, traveling as far as California. Fishing 12 months a year, his marriage failed. Friends couldn't repay loans and lost boats or homes. Exxon compensation checks, minus what fishermen earned on spill work, arrived too late for many.

The fisheries today are not the same. "The shrimp are slowly, slowly coming back. The crab aren't back. The herring aren't back. The salmon are back in abundance," he said.

Industry

At the time of the spill, compliance among government officials and the oil industry had set in after a dozen years of safe shipments, said Mark Swanson, director of the Prince William Sound Regional Citizens Advisory Council and a former Coast Guard officer.

When the tanker ran aground, for instance, spill response equipment was buried under snow. Alyeska Pipeline Service Co. in 1989 had 13 oil skimmers, 5 miles of boom and storage capacity for 220,000 gallons of spilled oil.

Now, Alyeska has 108 skimmers, 49 miles of boom and on-water storage capacity of almost 38 million gallons. North Slope oil must be transported in double-hull tankers, which must be escorted by two tugs. Radar monitors the vessel's position as well as that of icebergs.

The company conducts two major spill drills each year, and nearly 400 local fishing boat owners are trained to deploy and maintain boom.

Pacific herring

After the spill, the population of herring crashed. It is now listed as "not recovering." The silvery fish is a key species because it is eaten by salmon, seabirds and marine mammals from otters to whales. Four years after the spill, the estimated herring population based on modeling shrunk from 120 metric tons to less than 30 metric tons.

How that happened remains a question, said Scott Pegau, research program manager for the Oil Spill Recovery Institute in Cordova, Alaska.

Here's what's known: Adult herring feed on zooplankton, which crashed for three years after the spill. With less to eat, herring may have been more susceptible to disease normally fended off within a herring population.

Sea otters

Responders estimated that as many as 3,000 sea otters died the first year. Hundreds more died in the years after of exposure to oil that persisted in sediment, where otters dig for clams.

Three factors could have had an impact on the otters' ability to survive. Oiled fur loses insulating value. Otters ingest oil as they groom, and researchers years after the spill found blood chemistry evidence consistent with liver damage.

"One of the lessons we can take from this is that the chronic effects of oil in the environment can persist for decades," said Brenda Ballachey, who moved to Alaska a few months after the spill and spent the next summer dissecting sea otter carcasses collected from beaches and frozen.

The U.S. Geological Survey research biologist is the lead author of a federal study released last month that concludes that sea otters have finally returned to pre-spill numbers.

'The shrimp are slowly, slowly coming back. The crab aren't back. The herring aren't back. The salmon are back in abundance.'

Bernie Culbertson
fisherman



BUSINESS/WEATHER

Wal-Mart tool gives competitors' prices

ANNE D'INNOCENZIO
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The "Every Day Low Price" king is trying to shake up the world of pricing once again.

Wal-Mart Stores Inc. told The Associated Press that it has rolled out an online tool that compares its prices on 80,000 food and household products — from canned beans to dishwashing soap — with those of its competitors. If a lower price is found elsewhere, the discount will refund the difference to shoppers in the form of store credit.

The world's largest retailer began offering the feature, called "Savings Catcher," on its website late last month in seven big markets that include Dallas, San Diego and Atlanta. The tool compares advertised prices at retailers with physical stores, not those at online rivals like Amazon.com that also offer low prices on staples.

The move by Wal-Mart, which has a long history of undercut-

ting competitors, could not only change the way people shop but also how other retailers price their merchandise. After all, Americans already increasingly are searching for the lowest prices on their tablets and smartphones while in checkout aisles.

Shoppers do this so often that big retailers that include behemoths like Target and Best Buy have started offering to match the lower prices of rivals — but only if shoppers do the research on their own. The idea behind Wal-Mart's online feature, on the other hand, is to do the legwork for customers.

Citibank launched a similar program two years ago that sends Citi credit card customers a check for the difference if Citibank finds a lower price from an online retailer. But Wal-Mart is the first traditional retailer to offer such a program, and if it's successful, others may follow.

Ken Perkins, president of retail research firm Retail Metrics LLC, said the move will "put

pressure on everyone else to follow suit." But he and other industry watchers voiced concerns that the tool doesn't compare prices of online retailers.

After sending queries to some of Wal-Mart's competitors, it wasn't clear on Friday afternoon whether they planned to follow the move.

Meanwhile, Wal-Mart said it wants to see how competitors and customers respond to the program, but it doesn't have any plans to add online stores to the test.

Duncan Mac Naughton, chief merchandising and marketing officer for Wal-Mart's U.S. discount division, told AP that shoppers are looking for "technological answers to saving them money and time."

Wal-Mart built its business on offering lower prices on staples such as milk, bread and laundry detergent. But Wal-Mart's "every day low price" model is under attack from dollar stores and grocery stores like Kroger,

in addition to the Amazons of the world. On top of that, the retailer's primarily lower-income customers continue to cut back on spending during the economic recovery.

As a result, Wal-Mart's U.S. discount division recorded its fourth consecutive quarter of declines in revenue at stores opened at least a year, a critical yardstick for measuring a retailer's health. The discount store also has seen a decline in the number of shoppers going to its stores.

MARKET WATCH

March 21, 2014

| | |
|-----------------------|----------|
| Dow Jones Industrials | -28.28 |
| Nasdaq composite | -42.49 |
| Standard & Poor's 500 | -5.49 |
| Russell 2000 | -5.24 |
| March 21, 2014 | 1,193.73 |

EXCHANGE RATES

| Military rates | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Euro costs (March 24) | \$1.1400 |
| Dollar buys (March 24) | €0.7072 |
| British pound (March 24) | \$1.69 |
| Japanese yen (March 24) | 99.00 |
| South Korean won (March 24) | 1,052.00 |
| Commercial rates | |
| Bahrain (Dinar) | 0.3771 |
| British pound | \$1.6495 |
| Canada (dollar) | 1.1210 |
| China (Yuan) | 6.2253 |
| Denmark (Krone) | 5.4114 |
| Egypt (Pound) | 0.9618 |
| Hong Kong (Dollar) | \$1.3795/0.7249 |
| Euro | 1.7587 |
| Hungary (Forint) | 227.31 |
| Israel (Shekel) | 3.4803 |
| Japan (Yen) | 102.21 |
| Kuwait (Dinar) | 0.2815 |
| Norway (Krone) | 6.0543 |
| Philippines (Peso) | 45.27 |
| Poland (Zloty) | 3.304 |
| Saudi Arabia (Riyal) | 3.7504 |
| Singapore (Dollar) | 1.2738 |
| South Korea (Won) | 1,080.03 |
| Switzerland (Franc) | 0.8825 |
| Thailand (Baht) | 32.38 |
| Turkey (Lira) | 2,2339 |

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonmilitary currency exchange rates (i.e., for travelers), see the "Travel" section, which has your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the U.S. dollar, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

| | |
|---------------------------|------|
| Prime rate | 3.25 |
| 3-month bill | 0.08 |
| Federal funds market rate | 0.08 |
| 3-month bill | 0.05 |
| 30-year bond | 3.61 |

WEATHER OUTLOOK



Sunday's US temperatures

| City | Hi/Low | Wthr | Chattanooga | 54/47 | Rain | Fort Wayne | 31/21 | Cldy | Louisville | 47/33 | Cldy | Pocatello | 55/22 | Cldy | Sioux City | 38/14 | Pcidy | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------|
| Ablene, Texas | 53/38 <td>Cldy<td>Cheyenne</td><td>42/14<td>Cldy<td>Fr</td><td>Fresno</td><td>80/49<td>Cldy<td>Fr</td><td>Lubbock</td><td>51/33<td>Cldy<td>Portland, Maine</td><td>35/22<td>Pcidy<td>Sioux Falls</td><td>34/12<td>Pcidy</td></td></td></td></td></td></td></td></td></td></td> | Cldy <td>Cheyenne</td> <td>42/14<td>Cldy<td>Fr</td><td>Fresno</td><td>80/49<td>Cldy<td>Fr</td><td>Lubbock</td><td>51/33<td>Cldy<td>Portland, Maine</td><td>35/22<td>Pcidy<td>Sioux Falls</td><td>34/12<td>Pcidy</td></td></td></td></td></td></td></td></td></td> | Cheyenne | 42/14 <td>Cldy<td>Fr</td><td>Fresno</td><td>80/49<td>Cldy<td>Fr</td><td>Lubbock</td><td>51/33<td>Cldy<td>Portland, Maine</td><td>35/22<td>Pcidy<td>Sioux Falls</td><td>34/12<td>Pcidy</td></td></td></td></td></td></td></td></td> | Cldy <td>Fr</td> <td>Fresno</td> <td>80/49<td>Cldy<td>Fr</td><td>Lubbock</td><td>51/33<td>Cldy<td>Portland, Maine</td><td>35/22<td>Pcidy<td>Sioux Falls</td><td>34/12<td>Pcidy</td></td></td></td></td></td></td></td> | Fr | Fresno | 80/49 <td>Cldy<td>Fr</td><td>Lubbock</td><td>51/33<td>Cldy<td>Portland, Maine</td><td>35/22<td>Pcidy<td>Sioux Falls</td><td>34/12<td>Pcidy</td></td></td></td></td></td></td> | Cldy <td>Fr</td> <td>Lubbock</td> <td>51/33<td>Cldy<td>Portland, Maine</td><td>35/22<td>Pcidy<td>Sioux Falls</td><td>34/12<td>Pcidy</td></td></td></td></td></td> | Fr | Lubbock | 51/33 <td>Cldy<td>Portland, Maine</td><td>35/22<td>Pcidy<td>Sioux Falls</td><td>34/12<td>Pcidy</td></td></td></td></td> | Cldy <td>Portland, Maine</td> <td>35/22<td>Pcidy<td>Sioux Falls</td><td>34/12<td>Pcidy</td></td></td></td> | Portland, Maine | 35/22 <td>Pcidy<td>Sioux Falls</td><td>34/12<td>Pcidy</td></td></td> | Pcidy <td>Sioux Falls</td> <td>34/12<td>Pcidy</td></td> | Sioux Falls | 34/12 <td>Pcidy</td> | Pcidy |
| Albany, N.Y. | 28/20 <td>Cldy<td>Chicago</td><td>29/22<td>Pcidy<td>Fr</td><td>Goodland</td><td>43/18<td>Cldy</td><td>Fr</td><td>Macon</td><td>72/52<td>Cldy</td><td>Portland, Ore.</td><td>61/38<td>Cldy</td><td>South Bend</td><td>28/19<td>Cldy</td></td></td></td></td></td></td></td> | Cldy <td>Chicago</td> <td>29/22<td>Pcidy<td>Fr</td><td>Goodland</td><td>43/18<td>Cldy</td><td>Fr</td><td>Macon</td><td>72/52<td>Cldy</td><td>Portland, Ore.</td><td>61/38<td>Cldy</td><td>South Bend</td><td>28/19<td>Cldy</td></td></td></td></td></td></td> | Chicago | 29/22 <td>Pcidy<td>Fr</td><td>Goodland</td><td>43/18<td>Cldy</td><td>Fr</td><td>Macon</td><td>72/52<td>Cldy</td><td>Portland, Ore.</td><td>61/38<td>Cldy</td><td>South Bend</td><td>28/19<td>Cldy</td></td></td></td></td></td> | Pcidy <td>Fr</td> <td>Goodland</td> <td>43/18<td>Cldy</td><td>Fr</td><td>Macon</td><td>72/52<td>Cldy</td><td>Portland, Ore.</td><td>61/38<td>Cldy</td><td>South Bend</td><td>28/19<td>Cldy</td></td></td></td></td> | Fr | Goodland | 43/18 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Fr</td> <td>Macon</td> <td>72/52<td>Cldy</td><td>Portland, Ore.</td><td>61/38<td>Cldy</td><td>South Bend</td><td>28/19<td>Cldy</td></td></td></td> | Cldy | Fr | Macon | 72/52 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Portland, Ore.</td> <td>61/38<td>Cldy</td><td>South Bend</td><td>28/19<td>Cldy</td></td></td> | Cldy | Portland, Ore. | 61/38 <td>Cldy</td> <td>South Bend</td> <td>28/19<td>Cldy</td></td> | Cldy | South Bend | 28/19 <td>Cldy</td> | Cldy |
| Albuquerque | 65/39 <td>Pcidy<td>Cincinnati</td><td>41/29<td>Cldy<td>Fr</td><td>Grand Junction</td><td>57/31<td>Pcidy<td>Madison</td><td>27/14<td>Cldy<td>Providence</td><td>43/31<td>Pcidy<td>Spokane</td><td>50/29<td>Pcidy</td></td></td></td></td></td></td></td></td></td></td> | Pcidy <td>Cincinnati</td> <td>41/29<td>Cldy<td>Fr</td><td>Grand Junction</td><td>57/31<td>Pcidy<td>Madison</td><td>27/14<td>Cldy<td>Providence</td><td>43/31<td>Pcidy<td>Spokane</td><td>50/29<td>Pcidy</td></td></td></td></td></td></td></td></td></td> | Cincinnati | 41/29 <td>Cldy<td>Fr</td><td>Grand Junction</td><td>57/31<td>Pcidy<td>Madison</td><td>27/14<td>Cldy<td>Providence</td><td>43/31<td>Pcidy<td>Spokane</td><td>50/29<td>Pcidy</td></td></td></td></td></td></td></td></td> | Cldy <td>Fr</td> <td>Grand Junction</td> <td>57/31<td>Pcidy<td>Madison</td><td>27/14<td>Cldy<td>Providence</td><td>43/31<td>Pcidy<td>Spokane</td><td>50/29<td>Pcidy</td></td></td></td></td></td></td></td> | Fr | Grand Junction | 57/31 <td>Pcidy<td>Madison</td><td>27/14<td>Cldy<td>Providence</td><td>43/31<td>Pcidy<td>Spokane</td><td>50/29<td>Pcidy</td></td></td></td></td></td></td> | Pcidy <td>Madison</td> <td>27/14<td>Cldy<td>Providence</td><td>43/31<td>Pcidy<td>Spokane</td><td>50/29<td>Pcidy</td></td></td></td></td></td> | Madison | 27/14 <td>Cldy<td>Providence</td><td>43/31<td>Pcidy<td>Spokane</td><td>50/29<td>Pcidy</td></td></td></td></td> | Cldy <td>Providence</td> <td>43/31<td>Pcidy<td>Spokane</td><td>50/29<td>Pcidy</td></td></td></td> | Providence | 43/31 <td>Pcidy<td>Spokane</td><td>50/29<td>Pcidy</td></td></td> | Pcidy <td>Spokane</td> <td>50/29<td>Pcidy</td></td> | Spokane | 50/29 <td>Pcidy</td> | Pcidy | |
| Allentown, Pa. | 40/31 <td>Cldy<td>Colorado Springs</td><td>43/21<td>Cldy<td>Fr</td><td>Grand Rapids</td><td>26/15<td>Cldy<td>Medford</td><td>71/32<td>Cldy<td>Pueblo</td><td>47/23<td>Cldy<td>Springfield, Ill.</td><td>36/23<td>Cldy</td></td></td></td></td></td></td></td></td></td></td> | Cldy <td>Colorado Springs</td> <td>43/21<td>Cldy<td>Fr</td><td>Grand Rapids</td><td>26/15<td>Cldy<td>Medford</td><td>71/32<td>Cldy<td>Pueblo</td><td>47/23<td>Cldy<td>Springfield, Ill.</td><td>36/23<td>Cldy</td></td></td></td></td></td></td></td></td></td> | Colorado Springs | 43/21 <td>Cldy<td>Fr</td><td>Grand Rapids</td><td>26/15<td>Cldy<td>Medford</td><td>71/32<td>Cldy<td>Pueblo</td><td>47/23<td>Cldy<td>Springfield, Ill.</td><td>36/23<td>Cldy</td></td></td></td></td></td></td></td></td> | Cldy <td>Fr</td> <td>Grand Rapids</td> <td>26/15<td>Cldy<td>Medford</td><td>71/32<td>Cldy<td>Pueblo</td><td>47/23<td>Cldy<td>Springfield, Ill.</td><td>36/23<td>Cldy</td></td></td></td></td></td></td></td> | Fr | Grand Rapids | 26/15 <td>Cldy<td>Medford</td><td>71/32<td>Cldy<td>Pueblo</td><td>47/23<td>Cldy<td>Springfield, Ill.</td><td>36/23<td>Cldy</td></td></td></td></td></td></td> | Cldy <td>Medford</td> <td>71/32<td>Cldy<td>Pueblo</td><td>47/23<td>Cldy<td>Springfield, Ill.</td><td>36/23<td>Cldy</td></td></td></td></td></td> | Medford | 71/32 <td>Cldy<td>Pueblo</td><td>47/23<td>Cldy<td>Springfield, Ill.</td><td>36/23<td>Cldy</td></td></td></td></td> | Cldy <td>Pueblo</td> <td>47/23<td>Cldy<td>Springfield, Ill.</td><td>36/23<td>Cldy</td></td></td></td> | Pueblo | 47/23 <td>Cldy<td>Springfield, Ill.</td><td>36/23<td>Cldy</td></td></td> | Cldy <td>Springfield, Ill.</td> <td>36/23<td>Cldy</td></td> | Springfield, Ill. | 36/23 <td>Cldy</td> | Cldy | |
| Amarillo | 48/26 <td>Cldy<td>Columbia, S.C.</td><td>66/51<td>Rain<td>Fr</td><td>Greensboro, N.C.</td><td>51/35<td>Rain<td>Memphis</td><td>52/42<td>Cldy<td>Raleigh-Durham</td><td>53/47<td>Rain<td>Springfield, Mo.</td><td>44/28<td>Pcidy</td></td></td></td></td></td></td></td></td></td></td> | Cldy <td>Columbia, S.C.</td> <td>66/51<td>Rain<td>Fr</td><td>Greensboro, N.C.</td><td>51/35<td>Rain<td>Memphis</td><td>52/42<td>Cldy<td>Raleigh-Durham</td><td>53/47<td>Rain<td>Springfield, Mo.</td><td>44/28<td>Pcidy</td></td></td></td></td></td></td></td></td></td> | Columbia, S.C. | 66/51 <td>Rain<td>Fr</td><td>Greensboro, N.C.</td><td>51/35<td>Rain<td>Memphis</td><td>52/42<td>Cldy<td>Raleigh-Durham</td><td>53/47<td>Rain<td>Springfield, Mo.</td><td>44/28<td>Pcidy</td></td></td></td></td></td></td></td></td> | Rain <td>Fr</td> <td>Greensboro, N.C.</td> <td>51/35<td>Rain<td>Memphis</td><td>52/42<td>Cldy<td>Raleigh-Durham</td><td>53/47<td>Rain<td>Springfield, Mo.</td><td>44/28<td>Pcidy</td></td></td></td></td></td></td></td> | Fr | Greensboro, N.C. | 51/35 <td>Rain<td>Memphis</td><td>52/42<td>Cldy<td>Raleigh-Durham</td><td>53/47<td>Rain<td>Springfield, Mo.</td><td>44/28<td>Pcidy</td></td></td></td></td></td></td> | Rain <td>Memphis</td> <td>52/42<td>Cldy<td>Raleigh-Durham</td><td>53/47<td>Rain<td>Springfield, Mo.</td><td>44/28<td>Pcidy</td></td></td></td></td></td> | Memphis | 52/42 <td>Cldy<td>Raleigh-Durham</td><td>53/47<td>Rain<td>Springfield, Mo.</td><td>44/28<td>Pcidy</td></td></td></td></td> | Cldy <td>Raleigh-Durham</td> <td>53/47<td>Rain<td>Springfield, Mo.</td><td>44/28<td>Pcidy</td></td></td></td> | Raleigh-Durham | 53/47 <td>Rain<td>Springfield, Mo.</td><td>44/28<td>Pcidy</td></td></td> | Rain <td>Springfield, Mo.</td> <td>44/28<td>Pcidy</td></td> | Springfield, Mo. | 44/28 <td>Pcidy</td> | Pcidy | |
| Anchorage | 32/15 <td>Fr</td> <td>Columbus, Ga.</td> <td>69/55<td>Rain<td>Fr</td><td>Green Bay, Wis.</td><td>87/68<td>Cldy<td>Midland-Odessa</td><td>38/28<td>Cldy<td>Reno</td><td>66/33<td>Cldy<td>Tallahassee</td><td>77/54<td>Rain</td></td></td></td></td></td></td></td></td></td> | Fr | Columbus, Ga. | 69/55 <td>Rain<td>Fr</td><td>Green Bay, Wis.</td><td>87/68<td>Cldy<td>Midland-Odessa</td><td>38/28<td>Cldy<td>Reno</td><td>66/33<td>Cldy<td>Tallahassee</td><td>77/54<td>Rain</td></td></td></td></td></td></td></td></td> | Rain <td>Fr</td> <td>Green Bay, Wis.</td> <td>87/68<td>Cldy<td>Midland-Odessa</td><td>38/28<td>Cldy<td>Reno</td><td>66/33<td>Cldy<td>Tallahassee</td><td>77/54<td>Rain</td></td></td></td></td></td></td></td> | Fr | Green Bay, Wis. | 87/68 <td>Cldy<td>Midland-Odessa</td><td>38/28<td>Cldy<td>Reno</td><td>66/33<td>Cldy<td>Tallahassee</td><td>77/54<td>Rain</td></td></td></td></td></td></td> | Cldy <td>Midland-Odessa</td> <td>38/28<td>Cldy<td>Reno</td><td>66/33<td>Cldy<td>Tallahassee</td><td>77/54<td>Rain</td></td></td></td></td></td> | Midland-Odessa | 38/28 <td>Cldy<td>Reno</td><td>66/33<td>Cldy<td>Tallahassee</td><td>77/54<td>Rain</td></td></td></td></td> | Cldy <td>Reno</td> <td>66/33<td>Cldy<td>Tallahassee</td><td>77/54<td>Rain</td></td></td></td> | Reno | 66/33 <td>Cldy<td>Tallahassee</td><td>77/54<td>Rain</td></td></td> | Cldy <td>Tallahassee</td> <td>77/54<td>Rain</td></td> | Tallahassee | 77/54 <td>Rain</td> | Rain | |
| Asheville | 52/44 <td>Rain</td> <td>Columbia, S.C.</td> <td>36/27<td>Pcidy<td>Fr</td><td>Hartford</td><td>44/33<td>Cldy<td>Richmond</td><td>47/41<td>Cldy<td>Richmond</td><td>47/41<td>Cldy<td>Tampa</td><td>79/62<td>Cldy</td></td></td></td></td></td></td></td></td></td> | Rain | Columbia, S.C. | 36/27 <td>Pcidy<td>Fr</td><td>Hartford</td><td>44/33<td>Cldy<td>Richmond</td><td>47/41<td>Cldy<td>Richmond</td><td>47/41<td>Cldy<td>Tampa</td><td>79/62<td>Cldy</td></td></td></td></td></td></td></td></td> | Pcidy <td>Fr</td> <td>Hartford</td> <td>44/33<td>Cldy<td>Richmond</td><td>47/41<td>Cldy<td>Richmond</td><td>47/41<td>Cldy<td>Tampa</td><td>79/62<td>Cldy</td></td></td></td></td></td></td></td> | Fr | Hartford | 44/33 <td>Cldy<td>Richmond</td><td>47/41<td>Cldy<td>Richmond</td><td>47/41<td>Cldy<td>Tampa</td><td>79/62<td>Cldy</td></td></td></td></td></td></td> | Cldy <td>Richmond</td> <td>47/41<td>Cldy<td>Richmond</td><td>47/41<td>Cldy<td>Tampa</td><td>79/62<td>Cldy</td></td></td></td></td></td> | Richmond | 47/41 <td>Cldy<td>Richmond</td><td>47/41<td>Cldy<td>Tampa</td><td>79/62<td>Cldy</td></td></td></td></td> | Cldy <td>Richmond</td> <td>47/41<td>Cldy<td>Tampa</td><td>79/62<td>Cldy</td></td></td></td> | Richmond | 47/41 <td>Cldy<td>Tampa</td><td>79/62<td>Cldy</td></td></td> | Cldy <td>Tampa</td> <td>79/62<td>Cldy</td></td> | Tampa | 79/62 <td>Cldy</td> | Cldy | |
| Austin | 66/54 <td>Rain</td> <td>Concord, N.H.</td> <td>33/19<td>Pcidy<td>Fr</td><td>Hartford Springfield</td><td>38/27<td>Pcidy</td><td>St. Paul</td><td>24/07<td>Fr</td><td>Roanoke</td><td>46/42<td>Rain</td><td>Toledo</td><td>40/19<td>Cldy</td></td></td></td></td></td></td> | Rain | Concord, N.H. | 33/19 <td>Pcidy<td>Fr</td><td>Hartford Springfield</td><td>38/27<td>Pcidy</td><td>St. Paul</td><td>24/07<td>Fr</td><td>Roanoke</td><td>46/42<td>Rain</td><td>Toledo</td><td>40/19<td>Cldy</td></td></td></td></td></td> | Pcidy <td>Fr</td> <td>Hartford Springfield</td> <td>38/27<td>Pcidy</td><td>St. Paul</td><td>24/07<td>Fr</td><td>Roanoke</td><td>46/42<td>Rain</td><td>Toledo</td><td>40/19<td>Cldy</td></td></td></td></td> | Fr | Hartford Springfield | 38/27 <td>Pcidy</td> <td>St. Paul</td> <td>24/07<td>Fr</td><td>Roanoke</td><td>46/42<td>Rain</td><td>Toledo</td><td>40/19<td>Cldy</td></td></td></td> | Pcidy | St. Paul | 24/07 <td>Fr</td> <td>Roanoke</td> <td>46/42<td>Rain</td><td>Toledo</td><td>40/19<td>Cldy</td></td></td> | Fr | Roanoke | 46/42 <td>Rain</td> <td>Toledo</td> <td>40/19<td>Cldy</td></td> | Rain | Toledo | 40/19 <td>Cldy</td> | Cldy | |
| Atlantic City | 66/54 <td>Rain</td> <td>Corpus Christi</td> <td>71/67<td>Cldy</td><td>Fr</td><td>Helena</td><td>39/21<td>Cldy</td><td>Missoula</td><td>44/25<td>Snow</td><td>Rochester</td><td>46/42<td>Cldy</td><td>Topeka</td><td>42/22<td>Cldy</td></td></td></td></td></td> | Rain | Corpus Christi | 71/67 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Fr</td> <td>Helena</td> <td>39/21<td>Cldy</td><td>Missoula</td><td>44/25<td>Snow</td><td>Rochester</td><td>46/42<td>Cldy</td><td>Topeka</td><td>42/22<td>Cldy</td></td></td></td></td> | Cldy | Fr | Helena | 39/21 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Missoula</td> <td>44/25<td>Snow</td><td>Rochester</td><td>46/42<td>Cldy</td><td>Topeka</td><td>42/22<td>Cldy</td></td></td></td> | Cldy | Missoula | 44/25 <td>Snow</td> <td>Rochester</td> <td>46/42<td>Cldy</td><td>Topeka</td><td>42/22<td>Cldy</td></td></td> | Snow | Rochester | 46/42 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Topeka</td> <td>42/22<td>Cldy</td></td> | Cldy | Topeka | 42/22 <td>Cldy</td> | Cldy | |
| Austin | 68/53 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Dallas-Ft. Worth</td> <td>57/44<td>Cldy</td><td>Fr</td><td>Honolulu</td><td>67/57<td>Cldy</td><td>Mobile</td><td>69/50<td>Cldy</td><td>Rockford</td><td>38/17<td>Cldy</td><td>Tucson</td><td>80/52<td>Cldy</td></td></td></td></td></td> | Cldy | Dallas-Ft. Worth | 57/44 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Fr</td> <td>Honolulu</td> <td>67/57<td>Cldy</td><td>Mobile</td><td>69/50<td>Cldy</td><td>Rockford</td><td>38/17<td>Cldy</td><td>Tucson</td><td>80/52<td>Cldy</td></td></td></td></td> | Cldy | Fr | Honolulu | 67/57 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Mobile</td> <td>69/50<td>Cldy</td><td>Rockford</td><td>38/17<td>Cldy</td><td>Tucson</td><td>80/52<td>Cldy</td></td></td></td> | Cldy | Mobile | 69/50 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Rockford</td> <td>38/17<td>Cldy</td><td>Tucson</td><td>80/52<td>Cldy</td></td></td> | Cldy | Rockford | 38/17 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Tucson</td> <td>80/52<td>Cldy</td></td> | Cldy | Tucson | 80/52 <td>Cldy</td> | Cldy | |
| Baltimore | 47/36 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Dayton</td> <td>37/25<td>Pcidy</td><td>Fr</td><td>Houston</td><td>67/62<td>Cldy</td><td>Montgomery</td><td>67/56<td>Rain</td><td>Sacramento</td><td>75/47<td>Cldy</td><td>Tulsa</td><td>51/34<td>Cldy</td></td></td></td></td></td> | Cldy | Dayton | 37/25 <td>Pcidy</td> <td>Fr</td> <td>Houston</td> <td>67/62<td>Cldy</td><td>Montgomery</td><td>67/56<td>Rain</td><td>Sacramento</td><td>75/47<td>Cldy</td><td>Tulsa</td><td>51/34<td>Cldy</td></td></td></td></td> | Pcidy | Fr | Houston | 67/62 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Montgomery</td> <td>67/56<td>Rain</td><td>Sacramento</td><td>75/47<td>Cldy</td><td>Tulsa</td><td>51/34<td>Cldy</td></td></td></td> | Cldy | Montgomery | 67/56 <td>Rain</td> <td>Sacramento</td> <td>75/47<td>Cldy</td><td>Tulsa</td><td>51/34<td>Cldy</td></td></td> | Rain | Sacramento | 75/47 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Tulsa</td> <td>51/34<td>Cldy</td></td> | Cldy | Tulsa | 51/34 <td>Cldy</td> | Cldy | |
| Baton Rouge | 66/64 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Daytona Beach</td> <td>80/59<td>Cldy</td><td>Fr</td><td>Huntsville</td><td>57/46<td>Cldy</td><td>Nashville</td><td>51/39<td>Rain</td><td>St. Louis</td><td>40/25<td>Pcidy</td><td>Tupelo</td><td>55/46<td>Cldy</td></td></td></td></td></td> | Cldy | Daytona Beach | 80/59 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Fr</td> <td>Huntsville</td> <td>57/46<td>Cldy</td><td>Nashville</td><td>51/39<td>Rain</td><td>St. Louis</td><td>40/25<td>Pcidy</td><td>Tupelo</td><td>55/46<td>Cldy</td></td></td></td></td> | Cldy | Fr | Huntsville | 57/46 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Nashville</td> <td>51/39<td>Rain</td><td>St. Louis</td><td>40/25<td>Pcidy</td><td>Tupelo</td><td>55/46<td>Cldy</td></td></td></td> | Cldy | Nashville | 51/39 <td>Rain</td> <td>St. Louis</td> <td>40/25<td>Pcidy</td><td>Tupelo</td><td>55/46<td>Cldy</td></td></td> | Rain | St. Louis | 40/25 <td>Pcidy</td> <td>Tupelo</td> <td>55/46<td>Cldy</td></td> | Pcidy | Tupelo | 55/46 <td>Cldy</td> | Cldy | |
| Bilings | 35/18 <td>Snow</td> <td>Denver</td> <td>59/21<td>Pcidy</td><td>Fr</td><td>Indianapolis</td><td>37/25<td>Pcidy</td><td>New Orleans</td><td>72/64<td>Rain</td><td>St. Petersburg</td><td>79/66<td>Cldy</td><td>Waco</td><td>59/47<td>Cldy</td></td></td></td></td></td> | Snow | Denver | 59/21 <td>Pcidy</td> <td>Fr</td> <td>Indianapolis</td> <td>37/25<td>Pcidy</td><td>New Orleans</td><td>72/64<td>Rain</td><td>St. Petersburg</td><td>79/66<td>Cldy</td><td>Waco</td><td>59/47<td>Cldy</td></td></td></td></td> | Pcidy | Fr | Indianapolis | 37/25 <td>Pcidy</td> <td>New Orleans</td> <td>72/64<td>Rain</td><td>St. Petersburg</td><td>79/66<td>Cldy</td><td>Waco</td><td>59/47<td>Cldy</td></td></td></td> | Pcidy | New Orleans | 72/64 <td>Rain</td> <td>St. Petersburg</td> <td>79/66<td>Cldy</td><td>Waco</td><td>59/47<td>Cldy</td></td></td> | Rain | St. Petersburg | 79/66 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Waco</td> <td>59/47<td>Cldy</td></td> | Cldy | Waco | 59/47 <td>Cldy</td> | Cldy | |
| Birmingham | 55/52 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Des Moines</td> <td>37/18<td>Cldy</td><td>Fr</td><td>Jackson, Miss.</td><td>59/54<td>Cldy</td><td>New York City</td><td>43/32<td>Cldy</td><td>St. Thomas</td><td>85/77<td>Cldy</td><td>Washington, D.C.</td><td>47/39<td>Cldy</td></td></td></td></td></td> | Cldy | Des Moines | 37/18 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Fr</td> <td>Jackson, Miss.</td> <td>59/54<td>Cldy</td><td>New York City</td><td>43/32<td>Cldy</td><td>St. Thomas</td><td>85/77<td>Cldy</td><td>Washington, D.C.</td><td>47/39<td>Cldy</td></td></td></td></td> | Cldy | Fr | Jackson, Miss. | 59/54 <td>Cldy</td> <td>New York City</td> <td>43/32<td>Cldy</td><td>St. Thomas</td><td>85/77<td>Cldy</td><td>Washington, D.C.</td><td>47/39<td>Cldy</td></td></td></td> | Cldy | New York City | 43/32 <td>Cldy</td> <td>St. Thomas</td> <td>85/77<td>Cldy</td><td>Washington, D.C.</td><td>47/39<td>Cldy</td></td></td> | Cldy | St. Thomas | 85/77 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Washington, D.C.</td> <td>47/39<td>Cldy</td></td> | Cldy | Washington, D.C. | 47/39 <td>Cldy</td> | Cldy | |
| Bismarck | 35/13 <td>Pcidy</td> <td>Detroit</td> <td>27/17<td>Cldy</td><td>Fr</td><td>Jacksonville</td><td>80/56<td>Cldy</td><td>Newark</td><td>44/33<td>Cldy</td><td>Salem, Ore.</td><td>67/36<td>Cldy</td><td>W. Palm Beach</td><td>86/66<td>Cldy</td></td></td></td></td></td> | Pcidy | Detroit | 27/17 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Fr</td> <td>Jacksonville</td> <td>80/56<td>Cldy</td><td>Newark</td><td>44/33<td>Cldy</td><td>Salem, Ore.</td><td>67/36<td>Cldy</td><td>W. Palm Beach</td><td>86/66<td>Cldy</td></td></td></td></td> | Cldy | Fr | Jacksonville | 80/56 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Newark</td> <td>44/33<td>Cldy</td><td>Salem, Ore.</td><td>67/36<td>Cldy</td><td>W. Palm Beach</td><td>86/66<td>Cldy</td></td></td></td> | Cldy | Newark | 44/33 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Salem, Ore.</td> <td>67/36<td>Cldy</td><td>W. Palm Beach</td><td>86/66<td>Cldy</td></td></td> | Cldy | Salem, Ore. | 67/36 <td>Cldy</td> <td>W. Palm Beach</td> <td>86/66<td>Cldy</td></td> | Cldy | W. Palm Beach | 86/66 <td>Cldy</td> | Cldy | |
| Boise | 57/30 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Duluth</td> <td>37/19<td>Cldy</td><td>Fr</td><td>Janeau</td><td>37/07<td>Cldy</td><td>Norfolk, Va.</td><td>46/45<td>Rain</td><td>Salt Lake City</td><td>57/34<td>Cldy</td><td>Wichita</td><td>47/28<td>Cldy</td></td></td></td></td></td> | Cldy | Duluth | 37/19 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Fr</td> <td>Janeau</td> <td>37/07<td>Cldy</td><td>Norfolk, Va.</td><td>46/45<td>Rain</td><td>Salt Lake City</td><td>57/34<td>Cldy</td><td>Wichita</td><td>47/28<td>Cldy</td></td></td></td></td> | Cldy | Fr | Janeau | 37/07 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Norfolk, Va.</td> <td>46/45<td>Rain</td><td>Salt Lake City</td><td>57/34<td>Cldy</td><td>Wichita</td><td>47/28<td>Cldy</td></td></td></td> | Cldy | Norfolk, Va. | 46/45 <td>Rain</td> <td>Salt Lake City</td> <td>57/34<td>Cldy</td><td>Wichita</td><td>47/28<td>Cldy</td></td></td> | Rain | Salt Lake City | 57/34 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Wichita</td> <td>47/28<td>Cldy</td></td> | Cldy | Wichita | 47/28 <td>Cldy</td> | Cldy | |
| Boston | 40/30 <td>Pcidy</td> <td>El Paso</td> <td>75/54<td>Pcidy</td><td>Fr</td><td>Kansas City</td><td>40/24<td>Cldy</td><td>North Platte</td><td>39/16<td>Cldy</td><td>San Antonio</td><td>52/43<td>Cldy</td><td>Wichita Falls</td><td>56/40<td>Cldy</td></td></td></td></td></td> | Pcidy | El Paso | 75/54 <td>Pcidy</td> <td>Fr</td> <td>Kansas City</td> <td>40/24<td>Cldy</td><td>North Platte</td><td>39/16<td>Cldy</td><td>San Antonio</td><td>52/43<td>Cldy</td><td>Wichita Falls</td><td>56/40<td>Cldy</td></td></td></td></td> | Pcidy | Fr | Kansas City | 40/24 <td>Cldy</td> <td>North Platte</td> <td>39/16<td>Cldy</td><td>San Antonio</td><td>52/43<td>Cldy</td><td>Wichita Falls</td><td>56/40<td>Cldy</td></td></td></td> | Cldy | North Platte | 39/16 <td>Cldy</td> <td>San Antonio</td> <td>52/43<td>Cldy</td><td>Wichita Falls</td><td>56/40<td>Cldy</td></td></td> | Cldy | San Antonio | 52/43 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Wichita Falls</td> <td>56/40<td>Cldy</td></td> | Cldy | Wichita Falls | 56/40 <td>Cldy</td> | Cldy | |
| Bridgeport | 44/29 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Elkins</td> <td>39/30<td>Cldy</td><td>Fr</td><td>Kearney</td><td>67/13<td>Cldy</td><td>Oklahoma City</td><td>52/34<td>Cldy</td><td>San Diego</td><td>61/56<td>Cldy</td><td>Wilkes-Barre</td><td>35/25<td>Snow</td></td></td></td></td></td> | Cldy | Elkins | 39/30 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Fr</td> <td>Kearney</td> <td>67/13<td>Cldy</td><td>Oklahoma City</td><td>52/34<td>Cldy</td><td>San Diego</td><td>61/56<td>Cldy</td><td>Wilkes-Barre</td><td>35/25<td>Snow</td></td></td></td></td> | Cldy | Fr | Kearney | 67/13 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Oklahoma City</td> <td>52/34<td>Cldy</td><td>San Diego</td><td>61/56<td>Cldy</td><td>Wilkes-Barre</td><td>35/25<td>Snow</td></td></td></td> | Cldy | Oklahoma City | 52/34 <td>Cldy</td> <td>San Diego</td> <td>61/56<td>Cldy</td><td>Wilkes-Barre</td><td>35/25<td>Snow</td></td></td> | Cldy | San Diego | 61/56 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Wilkes-Barre</td> <td>35/25<td>Snow</td></td> | Cldy | Wilkes-Barre | 35/25 <td>Snow</td> | Snow | |
| Brownsville | 82/70 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Erie</td> <td>26/21<td>Cldy</td><td>Fr</td><td>Knoxville</td><td>53/45<td>Rain</td><td>Omaha</td><td>39/17<td>Pcidy</td><td>San Diego</td><td>67/56<td>Pcidy</td><td>Wilmington, Del.</td><td>46/35<td>Cldy</td></td></td></td></td></td> | Cldy | Erie | 26/21 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Fr</td> <td>Knoxville</td> <td>53/45<td>Rain</td><td>Omaha</td><td>39/17<td>Pcidy</td><td>San Diego</td><td>67/56<td>Pcidy</td><td>Wilmington, Del.</td><td>46/35<td>Cldy</td></td></td></td></td> | Cldy | Fr | Knoxville | 53/45 <td>Rain</td> <td>Omaha</td> <td>39/17<td>Pcidy</td><td>San Diego</td><td>67/56<td>Pcidy</td><td>Wilmington, Del.</td><td>46/35<td>Cldy</td></td></td></td> | Rain | Omaha | 39/17 <td>Pcidy</td> <td>San Diego</td> <td>67/56<td>Pcidy</td><td>Wilmington, Del.</td><td>46/35<td>Cldy</td></td></td> | Pcidy | San Diego | 67/56 <td>Pcidy</td> <td>Wilmington, Del.</td> <td>46/35<td>Cldy</td></td> | Pcidy | Wilmington, Del. | 46/35 <td>Cldy</td> | Cldy | |
| Buffalo | 22/17 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Eugene</td> <td>62/34<td>Cldy</td><td>Fr</td><td>Lake Charles</td><td>68/63<td>Cldy</td><td>Orlando</td><td>83/59<td>Cldy</td><td>San Francisco</td><td>59/30<td>Cldy</td><td>Yakima</td><td>57/27<td>Cldy</td></td></td></td></td></td> | Cldy | Eugene | 62/34 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Fr</td> <td>Lake Charles</td> <td>68/63<td>Cldy</td><td>Orlando</td><td>83/59<td>Cldy</td><td>San Francisco</td><td>59/30<td>Cldy</td><td>Yakima</td><td>57/27<td>Cldy</td></td></td></td></td> | Cldy | Fr | Lake Charles | 68/63 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Orlando</td> <td>83/59<td>Cldy</td><td>San Francisco</td><td>59/30<td>Cldy</td><td>Yakima</td><td>57/27<td>Cldy</td></td></td></td> | Cldy | Orlando | 83/59 <td>Cldy</td> <td>San Francisco</td> <td>59/30<td>Cldy</td><td>Yakima</td><td>57/27<td>Cldy</td></td></td> | Cldy | San Francisco | 59/30 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Yakima</td> <td>57/27<td>Cldy</td></td> | Cldy | Yakima | 57/27 <td>Cldy</td> | Cldy | |
| Burlington, Vt. | 25/19 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Evansville</td> <td>57/46<td>Pcidy</td><td>Fr</td><td>Lansing</td><td>27/15<td>Cldy</td><td>Pasadena</td><td>59/34<td>Pcidy</td><td>San Jose</td><td>74/47<td>Cldy</td><td>Youngstown</td><td>28/20<td>Cldy</td></td></td></td></td></td> | Cldy | Evansville | 57/46 <td>Pcidy</td> <td>Fr</td> <td>Lansing</td> <td>27/15<td>Cldy</td><td>Pasadena</td><td>59/34<td>Pcidy</td><td>San Jose</td><td>74/47<td>Cldy</td><td>Youngstown</td><td>28/20<td>Cldy</td></td></td></td></td> | Pcidy | Fr | Lansing | 27/15 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Pasadena</td> <td>59/34<td>Pcidy</td><td>San Jose</td><td>74/47<td>Cldy</td><td>Youngstown</td><td>28/20<td>Cldy</td></td></td></td> | Cldy | Pasadena | 59/34 <td>Pcidy</td> <td>San Jose</td> <td>74/47<td>Cldy</td><td>Youngstown</td><td>28/20<td>Cldy</td></td></td> | Pcidy | San Jose | 74/47 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Youngstown</td> <td>28/20<td>Cldy</td></td> | Cldy | Youngstown | 28/20 <td>Cldy</td> | Cldy | |
| Caribou, Maine | 26/14 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Fairbanks</td> <td>32/7<td>Cldy</td><td>Fr</td><td>Las Vegas</td><td>77/54<td>Cldy</td><td>Pendleton</td><td>56/28<td>Pcidy</td><td>Santa Fe</td><td>57/30<td>Cldy</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></td></td></td></td> | Cldy | Fairbanks | 32/7 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Fr</td> <td>Las Vegas</td> <td>77/54<td>Cldy</td><td>Pendleton</td><td>56/28<td>Pcidy</td><td>Santa Fe</td><td>57/30<td>Cldy</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></td></td></td> | Cldy | Fr | Las Vegas | 77/54 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Pendleton</td> <td>56/28<td>Pcidy</td><td>Santa Fe</td><td>57/30<td>Cldy</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></td></td> | Cldy | Pendleton | 56/28 <td>Pcidy</td> <td>Santa Fe</td> <td>57/30<td>Cldy</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></td> | Pcidy | Santa Fe | 57/30 <td>Cldy</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> | Cldy | | | | |
| Casper, Wyo. | 54/34 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Fargo</td> <td>24/03<td>Cldy</td><td>Fr</td><td>Lexington</td><td>45/32<td>Cldy</td><td>Peari</td><td>53/32<td>Cldy</td><td>St. Marie</td><td>57/30<td>Cldy</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></td></td></td></td> | Cldy | Fargo | 24/03 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Fr</td> <td>Lexington</td> <td>45/32<td>Cldy</td><td>Peari</td><td>53/32<td>Cldy</td><td>St. Marie</td><td>57/30<td>Cldy</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></td></td></td> | Cldy | Fr | Lexington | 45/32 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Peari</td> <td>53/32<td>Cldy</td><td>St. Marie</td><td>57/30<td>Cldy</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></td></td> | Cldy | Peari | 53/32 <td>Cldy</td> <td>St. Marie</td> <td>57/30<td>Cldy</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></td> | Cldy | St. Marie | 57/30 <td>Cldy</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> | Cldy | | | | |
| Charleston, S.C. | 75/56 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Flagstaff</td> <td>56/26<td>Cldy</td><td>Fr</td><td>Lincoln</td><td>41/17<td>Pcidy</td><td>Philadelphia</td><td>46/37<td>Cldy</td><td>Savannah</td><td>76/56<td>Cldy</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></td></td></td></td> | Cldy | Flagstaff | 56/26 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Fr</td> <td>Lincoln</td> <td>41/17<td>Pcidy</td><td>Philadelphia</td><td>46/37<td>Cldy</td><td>Savannah</td><td>76/56<td>Cldy</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></td></td></td> | Cldy | Fr | Lincoln | 41/17 <td>Pcidy</td> <td>Philadelphia</td> <td>46/37<td>Cldy</td><td>Savannah</td><td>76/56<td>Cldy</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></td></td> | Pcidy | Philadelphia | 46/37 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Savannah</td> <td>76/56<td>Cldy</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></td> | Cldy | Savannah | 76/56 <td>Cldy</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> | Cldy | | | | |
| Charleston, W.Va. | 43/36 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Flint</td> <td>25/11<td>Cldy</td><td>Fr</td><td>Little Rock</td><td>55/41<td>Cldy</td><td>Phoenix</td><td>83/57<td>Cldy</td><td>Seattle</td><td>56/40<td>Cldy</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></td></td></td></td> | Cldy | Flint | 25/11 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Fr</td> <td>Little Rock</td> <td>55/41<td>Cldy</td><td>Phoenix</td><td>83/57<td>Cldy</td><td>Seattle</td><td>56/40<td>Cldy</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></td></td></td> | Cldy | Fr | Little Rock | 55/41 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Phoenix</td> <td>83/57<td>Cldy</td><td>Seattle</td><td>56/40<td>Cldy</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></td></td> | Cldy | Phoenix | 83/57 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Seattle</td> <td>56/40<td>Cldy</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></td> | Cldy | Seattle | 56/40 <td>Cldy</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> | Cldy | | | | |
| Charlotte, N.C. | 55/49 <td>Rain</td> <td>Fort Smith</td> <td>56/40<td>Cldy</td><td>Fr</td><td>Los Angeles</td><td>69/55<td>Pcidy</td><td>Pittsburgh</td><td>34/25<td>Cldy</td><td>Shreveport</td><td>60/50<td>Cldy</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></td></td></td></td> | Rain | Fort Smith | 56/40 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Fr</td> <td>Los Angeles</td> <td>69/55<td>Pcidy</td><td>Pittsburgh</td><td>34/25<td>Cldy</td><td>Shreveport</td><td>60/50<td>Cldy</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></td></td></td> | Cldy | Fr | Los Angeles | 69/55 <td>Pcidy</td> <td>Pittsburgh</td> <td>34/25<td>Cldy</td><td>Shreveport</td><td>60/50<td>Cldy</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></td></td> | Pcidy | Pittsburgh | 34/25 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Shreveport</td> <td>60/50<td>Cldy</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></td> | Cldy | Shreveport | 60/50 <td>Cldy</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> | Cldy | | | | |
| Chicago | 29/22 <td>Pcidy</td> <td>Fort Worth</td> <td>57/44<td>Cldy</td><td>Fr</td><td>Los Angeles</td><td>69/55<td>Pcidy</td><td>Pittsburgh</td><td>34/25<td>Cldy</td><td>Shreveport</td><td>60/50<td>Cldy</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></td></td></td></td> | Pcidy | Fort Worth | 57/44 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Fr</td> <td>Los Angeles</td> <td>69/55<td>Pcidy</td><td>Pittsburgh</td><td>34/25<td>Cldy</td><td>Shreveport</td><td>60/50<td>Cldy</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></td></td></td> | Cldy | Fr | Los Angeles | 69/55 <td>Pcidy</td> <td>Pittsburgh</td> <td>34/25<td>Cldy</td><td>Shreveport</td><td>60/50<td>Cldy</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></td></td> | Pcidy | Pittsburgh | 34/25 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Shreveport</td> <td>60/50<td>Cldy</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></td> | Cldy | Shreveport | 60/50 <td>Cldy</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> | Cldy | | | | |
| Chicago | 29/22 <td>Pcidy</td> <td>Fort Worth</td> <td>57/44<td>Cldy</td><td>Fr</td><td>Los Angeles</td><td>69/55<td>Pcidy</td><td>Pittsburgh</td><td>34/25<td>Cldy</td><td>Shreveport</td><td>60/50<td>Cldy</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></td></td></td></td> | Pcidy | Fort Worth | 57/44 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Fr</td> <td>Los Angeles</td> <td>69/55<td>Pcidy</td><td>Pittsburgh</td><td>34/25<td>Cldy</td><td>Shreveport</td><td>60/50<td>Cldy</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></td></td></td> | Cldy | Fr | Los Angeles | 69/55 <td>Pcidy</td> <td>Pittsburgh</td> <td>34/25<td>Cldy</td><td>Shreveport</td><td>60/50<td>Cldy</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></td></td> | Pcidy | Pittsburgh | 34/25 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Shreveport</td> <td>60/50<td>Cldy</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></td> | Cldy | Shreveport | 60/50 <td>Cldy</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> | Cldy | | | | |
| Chicago | 29/22 <td>Pcidy</td> <td>Fort Worth</td> <td>57/44<td>Cldy</td><td>Fr</td><td>Los Angeles</td><td>69/55<td>Pcidy</td><td>Pittsburgh</td><td>34/25<td>Cldy</td><td>Shreveport</td><td>60/50<td>Cldy</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></td></td></td></td> | Pcidy | Fort Worth | 57/44 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Fr</td> <td>Los Angeles</td> <td>69/55<td>Pcidy</td><td>Pittsburgh</td><td>34/25<td>Cldy</td><td>Shreveport</td><td>60/50<td>Cldy</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></td></td></td> | Cldy | Fr | Los Angeles | 69/55 <td>Pcidy</td> <td>Pittsburgh</td> <td>34/25<td>Cldy</td><td>Shreveport</td><td>60/50<td>Cldy</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></td></td> | Pcidy | Pittsburgh | 34/25 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Shreveport</td> <td>60/50<td>Cldy</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></td> | Cldy | Shreveport | 60/50 <td>Cldy</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> | Cldy | | | | |
| Chicago | 29/22 <td>Pcidy</td> <td>Fort Worth</td> <td>57/44<td>Cldy</td><td>Fr</td><td>Los Angeles</td><td>69/55<td>Pcidy</td><td>Pittsburgh</td><td>34/25<td>Cldy</td><td>Shreveport</td><td>60/50<td>Cldy</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></td></td></td></td> | Pcidy | Fort Worth | 57/44 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Fr</td> <td>Los Angeles</td> <td>69/55<td>Pcidy</td><td>Pittsburgh</td><td>34/25<td>Cldy</td><td>Shreveport</td><td>60/50<td>Cldy</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></td></td></td> | Cldy | Fr | Los Angeles | 69/55 <td>Pcidy</td> <td>Pittsburgh</td> <td>34/25<td>Cldy</td><td>Shreveport</td><td>60/50<td>Cldy</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></td></td> | Pcidy | Pittsburgh | 34/25 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Shreveport</td> <td>60/50<td>Cldy</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></td> | Cldy | Shreveport | 60/50 <td>Cldy</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> | Cldy | | | | |
| Chicago | 29/22 <td>Pcidy</td> <td>Fort Worth</td> <td>57/44<td>Cldy</td><td>Fr</td><td>Los Angeles</td><td>69/55<td>Pcidy</td><td>Pittsburgh</td><td>34/25<td>Cldy</td><td>Shreveport</td><td>60/50<td>Cldy</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></td></td></td></td> | Pcidy | Fort Worth | 57/44 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Fr</td> <td>Los Angeles</td> <td>69/55<td>Pcidy</td><td>Pittsburgh</td><td>34/25<td>Cldy</td><td>Shreveport</td><td>60/50<td>Cldy</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></td></td></td> | Cldy | Fr | Los Angeles | 69/55 <td>Pcidy</td> <td>Pittsburgh</td> <td>34/25<td>Cldy</td><td>Shreveport</td><td>60/50<td>Cldy</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></td></td> | Pcidy | Pittsburgh | 34/25 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Shreveport</td> <td>60/50<td>Cldy</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></td> | Cldy | Shreveport | 60/50 <td>Cldy</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> | Cldy | | | | |
| Chicago | 29/22 <td>Pcidy</td> <td>Fort Worth</td> <td>57/44<td>Cldy</td><td>Fr</td><td>Los Angeles</td><td>69/55<td>Pcidy</td><td>Pittsburgh</td><td>34/25<td>Cldy</td><td>Shreveport</td><td>60/50<td>Cldy</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></td></td></td></td> | Pcidy | Fort Worth | 57/44 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Fr</td> <td>Los Angeles</td> <td>69/55<td>Pcidy</td><td>Pittsburgh</td><td>34/25<td>Cldy</td><td>Shreveport</td><td>60/50<td>Cldy</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></td></td></td> | Cldy | Fr | Los Angeles | 69/55 <td>Pcidy</td> <td>Pittsburgh</td> <td>34/25<td>Cldy</td><td>Shreveport</td><td>60/50<td>Cldy</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></td></td> | Pcidy | Pittsburgh | 34/25 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Shreveport</td> <td>60/50<td>Cldy</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></td> | Cldy | Shreveport | 60/50 <td>Cldy</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> | Cldy | | | | |
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| Chicago | 29/22 <td>Pcidy</td> <td>Fort Worth</td> <td>57/44<td>Cldy</td><td>Fr</td><td>Los Angeles</td><td>69/55<td>Pcidy</td><td>Pittsburgh</td><td>34/25<td>Cldy</td><td>Shreveport</td><td>60/50<td>Cldy</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></td></td></td></td> | Pcidy | Fort Worth | 57/44 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Fr</td> <td>Los Angeles</td> <td>69/55<td>Pcidy</td><td>Pittsburgh</td><td>34/25<td>Cldy</td><td>Shreveport</td><td>60/50<td>Cldy</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></td></td></td> | Cldy | Fr | Los Angeles | 69/55 <td>Pcidy</td> <td>Pittsburgh</td> <td>34/25<td>Cldy</td><td>Shreveport</td><td>60/50<td>Cldy</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></td></td> | Pcidy | Pittsburgh | 34/25 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Shreveport</td> <td>60/50<td>Cldy</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></td> | Cldy | Shreveport | 60/50 <td>Cldy</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> | Cldy | | | | |
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The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

ENTERTAINMENT

Gyllenhaal doubles down

By MARK OLSEN
Los Angeles Times

Movie doubles seem to be multiplying at an alarming rate. At last fall's Toronto International Film Festival, both "Enemy" and "The Double" grappled with what happens when you confront your doppelganger, and the idea appeared again in several films at the Sundance Film Festival.

With their enigmatic explorations of identity and persona, these recent films seem to be grappling with the human issues of the online age.

"Enemy," currently in U.S. theaters available on video on demand, also has its own double, in a way. The film closely follows the recent release of "Prisoners," which was also a collaboration between actor Jake Gyllenhaal and Montreal-based filmmaker Denis Villeneuve, whose French-language "Incendies" was nominated for the Academy Award for foreign language film in 2011.

"It's always strange, that kind of momentum toward an idea," said Villeneuve of the recent rash of doubles in movies. "In some ways, the double is like a genre unto itself. In the novel, it has been explored a lot."

In movies, from "The Parent Trap" to "Dead Ringers" to the more recent "Moon," the notion of the double, and confronting an unknown twin, has become a time-tested tradition as well.

In movies ... the notion of the double, and confronting an unknown twin, has become a time-tested tradition.

In fact, "Enemy" was shot before the child-abduction procedural of "Prisoners," with Villeneuve moving straight from production on one into the other. Post-production on the two was done simultaneously, with Villeneuve racing to ready both films for Toronto. When "Enemy" had its world premiere screening, it was the first time Villeneuve himself was watching the finished print.

In "Enemy," Gyllenhaal takes on two roles. As browbeaten history professor Adam Bell, he watches a movie on the recommendation of a colleague and notices a bit player who looks just like himself. Once he tracks down the struggling, handsome actor, Anthony Clair, it sets both men on a path in which their lives become forever intertwined, as each sees something desirable in the other. As their respective romantic partners, actresses Melanie Laurent and Sarah Gadon keep the film rooted in an emotional reality even as the story becomes more psychologically complex and begins to veer toward the fantastical.

"To me, I've always looked at it as the difference between the guy you are when you go to a dinner party and the

guy you are at home," explained Gyllenhaal of the distinction between the characters. "I always saw them as the same person, and Denis would see them as two different people."

The film is adapted from the 2004 novel by the late Portuguese Nobel Prize-winning author Jose Saramago. The original story is set in the 1980s, though Villeneuve updates the story to present-day Toronto. "The movie is a very free adaptation. I should say the movie is inspired by the book, it's not an adaptation," Villeneuve said. "Saramago has a very precise and unique style. 'Enemy' is an adaptation of the love I had for the book."

Working with screenwriter Javier Gullon, Villeneuve made other changes to the story as well, including the addition of a mysterious sex club and also the imagery of spiders that runs throughout the film. Though he allows that he is scared of spiders, Villeneuve declines to be any more specific about their inclusion.

"The spiders do have a precise meaning for me, but I think that in order to respect the enigma and the pleasure of the audience, I leave every viewer

to find their own interpretations," he said. "It's a luxury I gave myself for this movie. And for the enigma to stay alive I can't say the meaning of the spider. You have to deal with it yourself."

The pair first met after Villeneuve reached out to Gyllenhaal for the role in "Enemy." Villeneuve had hoped that the actor might also be interested in "Prisoners," which was also coming together. The pairing of actor and director on the two projects has been a stronger collaboration than either expected.

"I had heard of Denis and heard of 'Incendies,' though I hadn't seen 'Incendies,'" Gyllenhaal said. "And then Denis sent the script with a note that was sort of a manifesto. The note said he couldn't make anything else until he made 'Enemy,' and that what I was about to read was very complex but a very simple story."

The doubling effects, scenes in which Gyllenhaal plays opposite himself, were done using computerized motion control technology so any camera moves could be repeated exactly. Gyllenhaal would record half of his scene, work with Villeneuve to select the best takes, switch costumes and then shoot the other side with audio playback in a small earpiece.

For Gyllenhaal, the technical aspects of the production were like "playing 3-D chess." Despite any complications, according to Villeneuve, "in truth, the main special effect in 'Enemy' is Jake Gyllenhaal."

Jake Gyllenhaal and Melanie Laurent star in the movie "Enemy." Gyllenhaal plays a man who confronts another man who looks exactly like him. Gyllenhaal says the technical aspects of making the film were like "playing 3-D chess."

RHONRUS MEDIA/MCT



MUSIC

NEW ALBUMS



Lea Michele

Loud (Columbia)

On some of the songs from her debut album, Lea Michele is convincing. On others, it's like she is acting.

The "Glee" star, known for her big voice, provides the pipes on "Louder," but some songs sound empty and don't show much emotion or personality from the 27-year-old talent.

The dance-flavored title track is typical and forgettable, as is "Don't Let Go." "Empty Handed," co-written by Christina Perri, comes off like an unimpressive Coldplay cover, while other songs echo Kelly Clarkson, but lack the energy that Clarkson's learned to build.

Michele clocks with "If You Say So," which was inspired by one of the last conversations she had with her "Glee" co-star and boyfriend, Cory Monteith, who died after overdosing on heroin and alcohol last year.

The ballad is somewhat chilling and worth a listen, but while the rest of "Louder" features a big voice, most of the time Michele isn't saying much.

—Mesfin Fekadu
The Associated Press



Angel Olsen

Burn Your Fire for No Witness (Jagjaguwar)

Angel Olsen's first full-length, 2012's "Half Way Home," was a hushed acoustic affair, intimate and riveting. Olsen had previously worked with Bonnie "Prince" Billy, and that album contained some of his old-time folk sensibility. "Burn Your Fire for No Witness," on the other hand, is much more aggressive but no less riveting. The moments of sober quiet — the haunting "Iota" or the Leonard Cohen-esque "White Fire" — contrast with the bitter cries of "High & Wild," "Hi-Five" and "Stars," songs for reverberating electric guitars playing insistent chords.

"If there's one thing I fear / it's knowing you're near / but not with me here," Olsen sings in "Forgiven/Forgotten." Over the course of the song's brief two minutes, her voice veers from an accusation to a plea, from punk anger to girl-group desperation. These are songs of discomfort, but Olsen is at home in them, whether they're destabilizing garage rock or lone-some ballads.

—Steve Klinge
The Philadelphia Inquirer



Laura Cantrell

No Way From Here (Thrift Shop Recordings)

"They're just working out who they are," Laura Cantrell sings in explaining the title of her new album's first song, "All the Girls Are Complicated." When it comes to her music, at least, this alt-country veteran already has her own fully formed vision.

On "No Way From Here," the Nashville-born, New York-based singer-songwriter uses country as a base for a beguiling sound that draws on folk and pop. It's a good match for the grace and nuance of lyrics that never serve up trite emotion (the girls really are complicated). And for all the gentle, beguiling nature of her clear alto, the brisk "Beg or Borrow Days" also reveals a steely resolve.

—Nick Cristiano
The Philadelphia Inquirer



Twin Forks

Twin Forks (Dine Alone)

Chris Carrabba is a far more versatile musician than anyone ever expected when he became one of emo's breakout stars. Although there's a huge difference between Further Seems Forever, Dashboard Confessional and "Twin Forks," his well-crafted lyrics and emotional delivery do tie them all together. With Twin Forks, which includes Bellmore's Suzie Zeldin on vocals and mandolin, Carrabba leans toward the folk of Mumford & Sons and The Lumineers, especially on the driving "Can't Be Broken" and "Kiss Me Darling." The best, hands down, is "Scraping Up the Pieces," where he and Zeldin rave like the American Pogues.

—Glenn Gamboa
The Associated Press



Lake Street Dive

Bad Self Portraits (Signature Sounds) Self Portraits

Lake Street Dive is an indie soul/jazz outfit, formed at the New England Conservatory of Music. The band won fans with TV appearances on "Late Show with David Letterman" and "The Colbert Report." During a Manhattan concert for the Coen brothers' film "Inside Llewyn Davis," Lake Street stopped the show with a subtly swinging but folksy take on "You Go Down Smooth," with vocalist Rachael Price leading.

There is rich revivalism in what Price, Mike Olson (trumpet, guitar), Bridget Kearney (upright bass) and Mike Calabrese (drums) do, a gutsy post-Beat-Gen sound with hints of Etta James for sass and class.

"Bad Self Portraits" has the brightness of a Mark Ronson/Amy Winehouse pairing, a light into the darkness, as in tracks such as "Bobby Tanqueray," in which Price's purr is at its cattiest. This is not, however, a one-woman show. Each band member writes songs, the instrumentation is magnificently unified, and songs such as "Seventeen" and "Stop Your Crying" are hand-clapping, harmony-filled call-and-response gems.

—A.D. Amorosi
The Philadelphia Inquirer



Front: Rachel Price; Back, from left: Mike Calabrese, Bridget Kearney and Mike Olson.

JANROO McCABE/Courtesy of Big Hazzle Media

ENTERTAINMENT

The little blue birdie CHANGES TV

By DAWN C. CHMIELEWSKI
AND YVONNE VILLARREAL
Los Angeles Times

In Syfy's reality competition "Opposite Worlds," Twitter put unprecedented power in the hands of viewers, supplying them with the ability to reward popular contestants with a luxurious spa day while punishing others with a less savory task: cleaning human excrement.

The little blue birdie has fluttered into the writers room on Fox's "Sleepy Hollow," inspiring one episode to address viewers' dismay, voiced loudly on Twitter, over the central character's Revolutionary War-era attire. For a humorous few moments, Ichabod Crane doffs his period costume for a pair of uncomfortably contemporary skinny jeans.

These shows are just a sample of the sorts of experimentation being done as network executives and producers navigate social media (and interactivity) to attract viewers to the living room TV and keep them engaged. About one-third of all prime-time shows employ some Twitter element—from NBC's "The Voice," which lets viewers turn to Twitter to "save" performers whom judges have eliminated, to ABC's "Scandal," whose actors converse online with viewers as each episode is telecast. Twitter cemented its reputation as TV's favorite follower during the Oscar telecast when host Ellen DeGeneres' star-studded selfie set a record for most retweets.

In a nutshell: @Twitter is #trendingwithTV more than ever b4.

"What has popped up in the last five years is TV viewers have a connection to show runners and actors that is more immediate and transparent," said Geoffrey Long, who explores transmedia experiences for University of Southern California's Annenberg Innovation Lab. "There's an active dialogue that is no longer heavily one-sided. We're still in the early stages of how that changes things."

The social network has carefully cultivated the Twitter-TV association. The San Francisco company forged a partnership with Nielsen to produce ratings based on the audience for TV-related conversations. It struck partnerships with major networks, including CBS, NBC, Fox and ESPN as well as with sports leagues. Advertisers similarly have jumped into Twitter's nest, with major brands including Budweiser, Coca-Cola, Doritos, Honda and H&M all incorporating Twitter hashtags as part of their Super Bowl ad campaigns.

"It's past experimental for many agencies. It's proven to drive engagement at scale," said Mike Margolin, senior vice president of audience strategy for Santa Monica-based RPA, Honda's ad agency.

Twitter's head of television, Fred Graver, said 85 percent of the network shows that premiered last fall were accompanied by live tweeting, and 30 percent to 40 percent of prime-time shows continue to maintain a presence on the social network. Hashtags are plastered on corners of the TV screen, not-so-subtly guiding viewers on their episodic tweeting adventure.

Television network executives have sought to reach viewers on a variety of social media platforms, from Facebook to visually oriented sites such as Instagram and Pinterest. With some 241 million people using Twitter each month, networks have been encouraging actors such as Sarah Michelle Gellar of CBS' "The Crazy Ones" and Natasha Lyonne of Netflix's "Orange Is the New Black" to join the digital bandwagon to help build buzz; of course, not everyone has given way to peer

pressure (some holdouts: Andy Samberg of Fox's "Brooklyn Nine-Nine," the cast of NBC's "The Blacklist").

Misha Collins, who plays the angel Castiel on the long-running CW drama "Supernatural," said social media has contributed to the show's longevity. He said Jared Padalecki and Jensen Ackles, who play brothers following in their father's footsteps as demon hunters, cultivated a connection with fans when the show premiered in 2005.

"Jared and Jensen started going to fan conventions early on. It fed this live interaction with the fans," said Collins, who has amassed a following of 1.3 million people on Twitter. "When I came on, I started a Twitter account. That sort of moved that live interaction into the virtual environment." And it's not just the stars—the creative minds behind TV's most popular shows have awoken from their deep slumber to the sound of the chirping. Some writers rooms have adopted Twitter accounts to engage with viewers, cognizant of its pervasiveness and how it applies to 21st-century storytelling.

"It's become an essential part of our storytelling and our shows," said Alex Kurtzman, executive producer of "Sleepy Hollow." "There (once was) a distinction between that thing that used to be off to the side, and other people handled, and the way we're actually breaking stories in the room for the episodes that air on television. It's all part of the same process now."

The show's writers take turns tweeting during each broadcast, opening the door to the writers room and giving viewers insights into story choices and character motivation.

The writers pay attention to fan discussions—and in some cases, have introduced plot elements in response to comments about the show, a modern retelling of Washington Irving's "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow." Crane's appearance in skinny jeans was a signal to the viewers that the writers were paying attention to their comments. "We all felt very strongly that it's like asking Superman to take off his cape. Then he's not Superman," Kurtzman said. "But there were so many people online who had so much to say about his clothes, we sat down in the writers room and tried to come up with creative ways to address those concerns."

The backlash on Twitter and on other online platforms was part of what prompted "The Good Wife" writers to wrap up more quickly a story line involving Kalinda (Archie Panjabi) and her mysterious estranged husband in Season 4.

Long foresees a day when the format of the medium—140 or fewer characters—influences how beats of a story are told. "I think what we're going to see more and more of, are TV writers thinking and writing in ways that lend themselves to quotability and spreadability," he said.



IN A NUTSHELL:
@Twitter is
#trendingwithTV
more than
ever b4.

CROSSWORD AND COMICS

NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

IT'S BETTER THIS WAY
By JEREMY NEWTON / Edited by Will Shortz

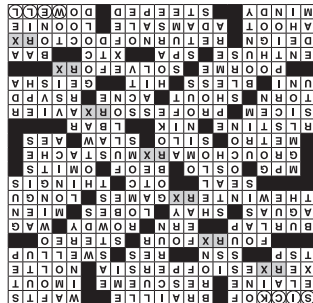
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| <p>ACROSS</p> <p>1 So over</p> <p>7 Touching words?</p> <p>14 Gently floats</p> <p>19 "Seinfeld" cohort</p> <p>20 1965 R&B #1 song with the repeated lyric "Can't you see that I'm lonely?"</p> <p>22 "Too rich for me"</p> <p>23 "He bested Leonidas at Thermopylae"</p> <p>25 Nick of "Lorenzo's Oil"</p> <p>26 Medicinal qly.</p> <p>27 Dashed ID</p> <p>28 Monitor setting, for short</p> <p>29 Balloon</p> <p>31 "Off-roader, often plays in</p> <p>36 Stuff in sacks</p> <p>39 Flying fisher</p> <p>40 Roughhousing</p> <p>41 Jokerster</p> <p>44 Glassfuls in restaurants</p> <p>45 Country buggs</p> <p>47 Places for study</p> <p>48 Air</p> <p>49 "Annual draw for snocross fans</p> <p>52 Union leader?</p> <p>53 Close up</p> <p>54 Like Advil or Aleve. Abbr.</p> <p>55 "That may be true, but ..."</p> <p>57 It's low for gas guzzlers: Abbr.</p> | <p>60 Home to King Harald V</p> <p>62 "Good _____"</p> <p>64 Doesn't bring up</p> <p>65 *Iconic feature of comedy</p> <p>69 Line at the Louvre</p> <p>70 Bomb shelter?</p> <p>71 Sub side, maybe</p> <p>72 D.D.E. challenger</p> <p>73 "Revenge R Us" author</p> <p>75 Suffix with peace</p> <p>76 Bent beam</p> <p>78 Biting remark?</p> <p>79 "Founder of Marvel's School for Gifted Youngsters</p> <p>87 Of two minds</p> <p>88 TALK LIKE THIS!</p> <p>89 Teen headache</p> <p>90 Got back to, in a way</p> <p>91 Prefix with cycle</p> <p>92 Give one's O.K.</p> <p>93 Google datum</p> <p>94 Robbed performer</p> <p>95 "Nothing seems to go my way"</p> <p>97 "Frequent problem faced by algebra students</p> <p>100 Pump up</p> <p>102 Chichi getaway</p> <p>103 A street drug, briefly</p> <p>104 Rural call</p> <p>107 Stoop</p> <p>108 "Horror flick starring Humphrey Bogart as a mad scientist, with "The"</p> | <p>114 Something LOL-worthy</p> <p>115 Water, wryly</p> <p>116 Canadian coin named for a bird</p> <p>117 "The Project" (Fox comedy)</p> <p>118 In hot water?</p> <p>119 Thrive</p> <p>DOWN</p> <p>1 Something dirty kept in a cell?</p> <p>2 _____ de la Soci  t  </p> <p>3 Complain, complain, complain</p> <p>4 "Kid-tested" breakfast cereal</p> <p>5 50/50</p> <p>6 "Admit it!"</p> <p>7 L.L.'s birthplace</p> <p>8 Shot caller</p> <p>9 Danger for Indiana Jones</p> <p>10 Spring river breakup</p> <p>11 Siren, say</p> <p>12 Not so great</p> <p>13 Member of the music industry's former Big Four</p> <p>14 Part of a Napa Valley tour</p> <p>15 Whack-</p> <p>16 With 5&-Down, a patient process? ... or a hint to two consecutive letters in the answer to each of the seven starred clues</p> <p>17 What one might go for a spin in?</p> <p>18 Any "cha" in the cha-cha-cha</p> | <p>21 How lines of latitude run</p> <p>24 Mount Zion's land: Abbr.</p> <p>30 Couples</p> <p>31 Scratch, say</p> <p>32 Rest stop</p> <p>33 "The oldest and strongest emotion of mankind" per H. P. Lovecraft</p> <p>34 Cousin of a gazelle</p> <p>35 Drink with two lizards in its logo</p> <p>36 Club</p> <p>37 "Blah!"</p> <p>38 Have second thoughts about</p> <p>40 "Clueless" and "Bridget Jones's Diary"</p> <p>42 Sponsorships</p> <p>43 Serengeti prey</p> <p>45 Put away for safekeeping</p> <p>46 Hugs and kisses, at times</p> <p>47 Paint variety</p> <p>48 Type-A friend from "Friends"</p> <p>50 One turning to the right</p> <p>51 Lose everything</p> <p>52 Certain bean</p> <p>56 Hair-razing stuff?</p> <p>57 Loud beast heard in theaters</p> <p>58 See 16-Down</p> <p>59 Bamboooz</p> <p>61 Like gathering storm clouds</p> <p>63 No-holds-barred</p> <p>66 _____ and Thummin' (sacred Judaic objects)</p> <p>67 "Need _____" (query to hitchhikers)</p> <p>68 Baron's blade</p> <p>73 They're 18 to 21</p> <p>74 Things for here and now</p> <p>77 More pink, perhaps</p> <p>80 It can be prickly</p> <p>81 Jib, e.g.</p> <p>82 John Candy's old comedy program</p> <p>83 Motor with some muscle</p> <p>84 You might get stuck with them</p> <p>85 Book after Galatians: Abbr.</p> <p>86 Nutritional info</p> <p>88 Photographs' choices</p> <p>92 It may help catch a fugitive</p> <p>93 Like Brando's Don Corleone</p> <p>94 Disappear, as a trail</p> <p>96 "Good heavens!"</p> <p>97 Eject, as froth</p> <p>98 Retired govt. agent</p> <p>99 Co. making arrangements</p> <p>100 Dutch wheels</p> <p>101 Member of the old Chero-Cola product line</p> <p>102 "Chop-chop!"</p> <p>104 Radius, e.g.</p> <p>105 Seed casing</p> <p>106 Jump on ice</p> <p>109 Jet crew, briefly</p> <p>110 Quick time-out</p> <p>111 Scream at a ring</p> <p>112 Bit of love talk</p> <p>113 Drag</p> |
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GUNSTON STREET



"Gunston Street" is drawn by Basil Zaviski. E-mail him at gunstonstreet@yahoo.com, and visit gunstonstreet.com.

RESULTS FOR ABOVE PUZZLE



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OMBUDSMAN

ENTERTAINMENT



Art imitating life

Tyler Perry's aunt inspiration for new film

By RICK BENTLEY
The Fresno Bee

At 5 years old, Tyler Perry knew that he wanted to be so successful when he grew up that he could take care of his mother. His determination never wavered, and he's now one of the most prolific writer/director/actors working, with multiple TV series on the air and his latest movie, "The Single Moms Club."

It wasn't until his mother, Willie Maxine Perry, died in 2009, that Perry realized striving for success just for his mother wasn't the wisest thing to do.

"I did everything for my mother. I sacrificed my entire life for her. It worked out because it drove me to success because I wanted to be the kid who made it. But when my mother died, it left me so empty. I didn't have any of this on my own. There was no success for myself," Perry says. "It was great. I had it. But, it was all about her. So I had to find a way to refocus."

The result of that focus is "The Single Moms Club," which looks at five women — played by Nia Long, Cocoa Brown, Amy Smart, Wendi McLendon-Covey and Zulay Henao — from different backgrounds who are pushed together. They soon discover they have one thing in common: raising children on their own.

It was Perry's aunt who served as the inspiration for "The Single Moms Club."

"My aunt raised four boys by herself. She never took welfare a day in her life. She never begged anybody for anything.

But she always made it her own way," Perry says. "She raised these four boys by herself. I started thinking about her life. This is my homage to her and every single mother out there."

Perry says "Single Moms Club" isn't a "wee in me" movie about single mothers. He's written about a group of women who are doing what they have to do for their kids and the support they give each other. He's a strong believer in the idea that it takes a village to raise a child.

Family is a familiar theme for a Perry movie. Although he's heard complaints that all of his movies have a similar voice, he thinks each one has had something different to say. What they often say reflects Perry's Christian beliefs, whether it be full-blown comedy like any of the "Madea" movies or something that has a more dramatic edge such as "The Single Mom's Club."

"I usually like to do something really stupid and silly and fun after I have done something really heavy. I remember thinking after shooting 'For Colored Girls' and 'Alex Cross' that this was really dark and taking me down too far. So I wanted to do something that was really, really fun," Perry says. "It's all about where I am in my own head where I just need a break."

"With this movie, I just thought this was a subject that needed to be addressed. It is the last film I'm going to be doing for a couple of years so I can focus on television. So I wanted to take a break with something that I hoped would be inspiring and encouraging to a lot of people."

Tyler Perry says his new film, "The Single Moms Club," will be his last for a while.

K C BAILEY, LIONS GATE/AP

'12 Years a Slave' author's death still a mystery

By CHRIS CAROLA
The Associated Press

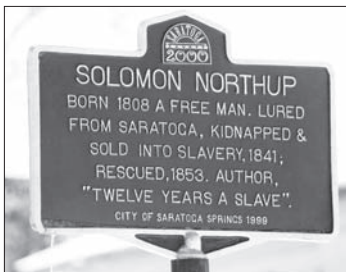
Historians know where Solomon Northup was born, where he lived and where he worked. They know whom he married and how many children he had. They know he played the fiddle and spent 12 years enslaved in the South before being freed.

What historians don't know about the author of "12 Years a Slave" is when and how he died and where he is buried. It's a lingering mystery in the final chapter of the life of the 19th-century free-born African-American whose compelling account of enforced slavery in pre-Civil War Louisiana was made into the Oscar-winning film of the same title.

"That's sort of a big blank spot in the story, for sure," said Rachel Seligman, co-author of "Solomon Northup: The Complete Story of the Author of Twelve Years a Slave," published last year.

This month, "12 Years a Slave" took home the Academy Awards for best picture, best adapted screenplay and best supporting actress. The accolades have sparked new interest in Northup's story, which was little known until recent years even in the upstate New York communities where he spent most of his life.

Northup was born July 10, 1808, in what is now the Essex County town of Minerva, in the Adirondack Mountains. His father, a former slave, moved the family to neighboring Washington County, eventually settling in the village of Fort Edward, on the Hudson River 40 miles north of Albany. Northup married Anne Hampton in the late 1820s,



A Solomon Northup historical marker in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., honors the author of "12 Years a Slave."

and the couple lived in an 18th-century house in Fort Edward that is now a museum.

Northup worked on his father's farm and rafted timber on the Champlain Canal between Fort Edward and the southern end of Lake Champlain. The couple and their children moved to nearby Saratoga Springs when Anne got a job in one of the growing spa resort town's big hotels. Northup found work as a musician, and in 1841, two white

men lured him to Washington, D.C., with the promise of more work. Instead, they kidnapped him and took him to New Orleans, where he was sold into slavery.

Northup endured the next 12 years enslaved on a Louisiana cotton plantation before friends in Saratoga finally won his freedom. In 1853, he published a memoir of his ordeal that led to a speaking tour supported by abolitionists. He got involved in the Underground Railroad, helping escaped slaves find freedom in the Northeast and Canada. But around 1863, the height of the Civil War, he dropped out of sight and was never heard from again.

Theories abound. One scenario has him being captured and killed while serving as a spy for the Union Army. The man who helped rescue him said he believed Northup had taken to drink and was kidnapped yet again. Or Northup could have died in a place where no one knew him or cared to properly bury an African-American.

"He may have just wandered around from place to place and died somewhere nobody knew who he was, and he was buried in a potter's field," said David Fiske, co-author of the 2013 Northup book along with Union College professor Clifford Brown.

No matter the reasons have ever been found for Northup, Fiske, a former state librarian, points out that death records weren't kept in a systematic form in New York until the 1880s.

For Seligman, a museum curator at Skidmore College, host of this July's annual Solomon Northup Day, the mystery surrounding Northup's demise and resting place is part of the allure of being a historian.

"It's what keeps historians going," she said. "It's just a puzzle to be solved."

GADGETS & CHARTS

Marvel creating digital timeline

By MATT MOORE
The Associated Press

From the Golden Age Toro to Ultimate Human Torch, characters sprung from Marvel Entertainment are as varied as the people who read, watch, listen and even play them in video games.

The publisher of Marvel Comics is focusing on its panoply of characters, enlisting writers, artists, editors and historians to build a sprawling digital and interactive timeline that showcases the famous, the infamous and the obscure heroes, villains and others.

The endeavor is part of Marvel's celebration of its 75th anniversary, said editor-in-chief Axel Alonso, and to make people aware of more than marquee names like Captain America or Spider-Man.

"We want it to be as friendly to people who come out of the Cinesplex to people who have long boxes in their basement," he said this week of the site at www.marvel.com/75. "It's time for us to underline that and show our rich history."

The site, which goes live in April, features interactive timelines, interviews with classic writers and artists — including Stan Lee and Roy Thomas — along with contemporary ones like Dan Slott, Kelly Sue DeConnick

and Brian Michael Bendis, among others.

"The Web gives us the capability to do things differently, daily and across platforms — audio, video, picture galleries, lists — with all the characters and the creators," said Ben Morse, editor of Marvel's website and an architect of the initiative.

"We're looking at the characters, the history and the major stories from different perspectives than we normally would."

In most cases, promotion is about what is to come — a new Rocket Raccoon comic or a Big Hero Six film. The 75th anniversary site is about looking back and taking stock.

"This is an opportunity to celebrate what's come before," Morse said.

Part of the interactive component is breaking the company's history into different eras, said Matt Robinson, Marvel's art director for digital, to have content from "over the years, from the beginning of Marvel all the way to the present day" focusing on each decade.

"That vast spread is why we did it by era, so that we could highlight even those that may not be prominent and still give them their due," he said.

That will help them lavish attention on every era from the Golden Age of the late 1930s and 1940s to the Silver Age and the creation of Spidey, the Fantastic Four, the rise of the X-Men and contemporary characters, too.



GADGET WATCH



The ProGear Vault CE3180 case essentially provides a suit of armor for the iPad mini.

Military-rated case keeps iPads safe

By GREGG ELLMAN
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Once you have your iPad Air or mini in Pelican's ProGear Vault case, you can be sure it's safe.

The case's rubber seals and aircraft-grade aluminum offer effective protection from drops, bangs, water or weather.

Inside the folio-styled case, your iPad is enclosed with an elasticized copolymer rubber to absorb the impact when it falls or hits a hard surface.

The case is rated IP54 for water resistance and momentary immersion, and meets Military Specification Test Standards 810G to survive a 4-foot drop.

Cosmetically, the case is a hard plastic, for which Pelican is famous. You might think that with all this protection it is like carrying around a 10-pound weight, but that's far from the case.

It measures 10.25 by 8 by 3/4 inches and weighs just 1.4 pounds, which is not add much weight to the existing tablet considering what the case will do for you.

Setup is required; you must remove a few screws (tool included) to install your iPad and then screw them back in for proper installation.

Once installed, you'll still have full access to all your buttons and ports. The case can even stand on its own on flat surfaces.

It's available in black and gray along with a mixture of white, orange and magenta.

Online: pelican.com; \$99.95 for the Air, \$79.95 for the mini version

The Top Dawg DashCam may not help you prove you didn't run that red light, but I'm guessing it would be a great help if someone runs a light and rams into you.

I'll get to the camera performance, but first here are some of the specs. Video is recorded in AVI formats 848 x 480 @ 15fps or 1280 x 720 @ 30fps while JPGs are 2592 x 1944.

An 8GB SD card is included, but you can use your own up to 32GB. The camera has an angle of view of 120 degrees, there's a built-in microphone, USB 2.0 connection, 560mAh Li-Polymer

rechargeable battery (up to 5 hours) and a 2.0 MPX CMOS sensor with night vision.

That's a whole lot crammed into this camera, and it performs well. If you expect great HD quality images to show on your 80-inch flat screen TV, this isn't for you. But if you want a solid dash cam, then this is your guy.

The camera has a plastic shell, a 2.5-inch pop-up display on the camera, which measures 4.5 by 2.5 by 1 inches (with camera folded down) and weighs about 3 ounces, without a mount.

Included with the camera is a mount, battery, RCA cable and a 12V cable (to plug into the cigarette lighter).

Online: topdawgelectronics.com, \$55.49 on Amazon.com

The Boog Mirrorless is the latest addition to the Python collection of storage solutions for photographers.

The exterior of the bag is a durable 1680-denier ballistic nylon treated with a water-repelling coating.

A shoulder strap lets you carry it, and the strap tucks away in the back pouch if you prefer to carry it with the top-side hand strap.

While it's designed and named for a mirrorless camera, it will support and hold whatever you can put in it. I tried it with a standard SLR, mid-range zoom, flash and a few other accessories, which all fit just fine.

It has four zippered pockets and a front slide-in pouch. The main compartment has Velcro dividers so you can adjust it specifically to your camera equipment. One of the side zippered pockets has a key holder with a quick release and stretchable dividers.

A great — and unusual — feature is an ID plate embedded with a unique serial number in the front pouch, which you register at terrallinc.com in case you lose the bag.

Online: boogbags.com; \$80

ON THE COVER: Aaron Paul plays a vengeful street racer framed for a crime he didn't commit in "Need for Speed."

DrawnWorks II/AP

ITUNES MUSIC

Top 10 songs on the iTunes Store for March 19:

1. "Happy" (from "Despicable Me 2"), Pharrell Williams
2. "All of Me," John Legend
3. "The Man," Aloe Blacc
4. "Dark Horse," Katy Perry (feat. Juicy J)
5. "Let It Go," Idina Menzel
6. "Talk a Little," Jason Derulo (feat. 2 Chainz)
7. "S.E.I.F.E., The Chainsmokers
8. "Pompeii," Bastille
9. "Turn Down for What," DJ Snake & Lil Jon
10. "This Is How We Roll," Florida Georgia Line (feat. Luke Bryan)

— Compiled by MCT

SPOTIFY MUSIC

The top streamed tracks on Spotify for March 10-16:

1. Katy Perry, "Dark Horse"
2. Jason Derulo, "Talk Dirty" — feat. 2 Chainz
3. John Legend, "All of Me"
4. Bastille, "Pompeii"
5. Beyonce, "Drunk in Love"
6. Lorde, "Team"
7. Pitbull, "Timber"
8. OneRepublic, "Counting Stars"
9. Pharrell Williams, "Happy" (from "Despicable Me 2")
10. Various Artists, "Let It Go"

— Compiled by The Associated Press

ITUNES MOVIES

The top movies downloaded from the iTunes Store for March 19:

1. "Frozen"
2. "American Hustle"
3. "The Wolf of Wall Street"
4. "Saving Mr. Banks"
5. "The Hunger Games: Catching Fire"
6. "Veronica Mars"
7. "12 Years a Slave"
8. "47 Ronin"
9. "A.C.O.D."
10. "Dallas Buyers Club"

— Compiled by MCT

VIDEO GAMES

Game Informer Magazine ranks the top 10 handheld games for March:

1. "Danganronpa: Trigger Happy Havoc," Vita
2. "Professor Layton and the Azran Legacy," 3DS
3. "Final Fantasy X/X-2 HD Remaster," Vita
4. "Bravely Default," 3DS
5. "OlliOlli," Vita
6. "Terraaria," Vita
7. "The Legend of Zelda: A Link Between Worlds," 3DS
8. "Pokemon X/Y," 3DS
9. "TaK," Vita
10. "Inazuma Eleven," 3DS

— Compiled by MCT

APPS

Top 5 new free apps for March 19:

- ANDROID
1. Smash Hit
 2. FRONTLINE COMMANDO 2
 3. QuizUp
 4. Road Smash: Crazy Racing!
 5. Royal Revolt 2

Top 5 free apps for March 19:

- APPLE
1. Smash Hit
 2. CBS Sports
 3. ESPN Tournament Challenge
 4. Crazy Taxi
 5. The Impossible Flappy Game — The Adventure of a Tiny Bird

— Compiled by MCT

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OPINION

NPR should know where women are in peril

By JULIANA JIMENEZ JARAMILLO
 Slate

Which is worse, a burqa or a bikini? That, surely, eluded Symbionte contest or female gender mutilation? That is the earnest question NPR asked last week in its piece "Which Place Is More Sexist: The Middle East Or Latin America?" Lourdes Garcia Navarro, NPR's South American correspondent, attempted to answer the question while ignoring the data on maternal mortality, the ratio of women in government, women's ability to secure a driver's license or the number of children married before the age of 10. Garcia Navarro may have thought pitting one region against the other would be an even contest, but when it comes to gender equality, the Middle East and Latin America are not in the same category — they're not even in the same century.

Early on, Garcia Navarro concedes that, yes, Brazil has a female president (as do Argentina, Chile and Costa Rica) and that, surely, "the strict Saudi rabas where women cannot drive, or Afghanistan under the Taliban, where women could not study." But beauty pageants are very popular in Brazil, and liposuction is rampant; therefore, are they really that different? The answer is yes, they are.

Nicholas Kristof and Cheryl WuDunn addressed why in their 2010 book "Half the Sky": "We tend to think of Latin America, with its legacy of machismo, as a man's world. But Mexico and other Latin countries actually do pretty well at educating girls and keeping them alive. Most Latin nations have populations that are majority

female. Maternity hospitals even in poor neighborhoods of South American cities such as Bogota and Quito provide free prenatal care and delivery, because saving women's lives is considered by society to be a priority." This imperative to value, even glorify, mothers may come from a patriarchal place in the region's collective religious unconscious, but the outcome is longer life expectancy and greater quality of life for women.

According to the 2013 Global Gender Gap Report, the Middle East "ranks the lowest on the Economic Participation and Opportunity and Political Empowerment subindexes." Also:

Thirteen of the 20 lowest performing countries on the work force participation indicator are from the region, as are 11 of the lowest on the estimated earned income indicator. Seven of the lowest countries on the Political Empowerment subindex are also from the region. One of only two countries with a score of zero on the Political Empowerment subindex are from the region.

By contrast, Latin America is a shining example of growing gender parity. It closed 70 percent of its overall gender gap in 2013, and showed "the biggest improvements from last year compared to the other regions." When the report counted the number of female legislators, senior officials and managers, 10 out of the 20 best performing nations are in Latin America. And "the three overall highest climbers of the 110 countries that have been included in the report since 2006 are from Latin America and the Caribbean: Nicaragua, Bolivia and Ecuador."

Garcia Navarro is right about one thing: Latin America's history of violence and

conflict has not spared women. Violence toward women in the region has been on the rise in the last decade and is often tied to long-running armed conflicts. Latin America is also sexist and patriarchal. I am reminded of this every year, when I go back to Colombia, where I grew up: my uncle's off-color joke, the cat-calling, the scantily clad women parading themselves on TV between weight loss commercials, and all the plastic surgery, which has very real health risks and constitutes a multi-million-dollar industry siphoning deep in the low self-esteem of women.

But even if my female relatives have had plastic surgery, they are also moving around unchaperoned, driving cars and getting college degrees. They are doctors, architects, stockbrokers, business owners, philosophers and lawyers — and are just the women in my family. (This while Iran is banning women from college majors, Saudi Arabia is almost ready to give women the right to vote, and in Yemen, a woman is not considered a full person in the eyes of the courts.) Garcia Navarro writes that "the Middle East and Latin America are the most famously imbalanced country both impose their own burdens on women in the way they are treated and perceived." She's right. And I don't want to generalize as she does: There are many countries in the Middle East — like Israel and Lebanon — where women have it good. But to wonder what's worse, a society where a woman can go outside wearing whatever she wants and go wherever she chooses to one where, in some countries, women are stoned for being raped, means you fundamentally don't understand what you're asking.

Juliana Jimenez Jaramillo is a photo editor at Slate and co-founder and writer at Femination.

Obama using last chance to further his agenda

By PENIEL E. JOSEPH
 The Root

In the weeks since his State of the Union address, President Barack Obama has issued a series of executive orders designed to stem a tide of growing economic and racial inequality that threatens to undermine the fabric of American society.

Obama's efforts to pivot the political narrative toward a focus on economic performance reflect the fact that, despite his winning two national elections and saving Wall Street and the U.S. economy from the depths of the Great Recession, our national economy no longer works for tens of millions of poor, working- and middle-class families.

The Obama administration's stewardship of the nation's economic recovery favored Wall Street over Main Street and banks over homeowners. The administration also realized too late that corporate capital preferred to sit on trillions in profits and reserves rather than invest in the economy.

Faced with a dysfunctional and highly partisan Republican-controlled House of Representatives, the administration's new approach — what might be called Obama 2.0 — is an attempt to utilize muscular executive action to make inroads on pressing issues of employment, immigration and racial justice for black youths.

This month the president ordered the Labor Department to revamp rules that shortchange millions of low-income wage earners out of overtime pay. The changes will enable millions of Americans to receive more income. Obama's directive comes on the heels of his SOTU support for raising the minimum wage to \$10.10.

Under pressure from immigration-reform activists who derisively refer to him

as "deporter in chief," Obama has ordered a review of immigration policies designed to ease growing tensions over the inability to pass comprehensive immigration reform. Calling himself the "champion in chief" of immigration reform, Obama continues to publicly support a pathway to citizenship for 10 million undocumented immigrants, even in the face of hardening Republican opposition to any form of citizenship for them.

Perhaps the initiative that has received the most attention is the president's My Brother's Keeper program, which pledged \$200 million in private funding over five years to promote black male educational achievement and excellence. Obama's relationship with the program is at once deeply personal and political. Inspired in part by the aftermath of Trayvon Martin's death, Obama described the nation's commitment to black male youths as "a moral issue" for America.

"We just assume this is an inevitable part of American life, instead of the outrage that it is," Obama observed after citing a litany of negative statistics regarding black boys' experiences in school and the criminal-justice system.

Obama's approach to these issues underscores the challenge of addressing the structural problems of unemployment, poverty and institutional racism within the limits of presidential power and without court orders.

Critics rightfully point out the numerous mistakes in strategy and tactics that roiled the president's first term, despite the historic passage of the Affordable Care Act. And his inability to craft a unifying vision for a new New Deal emboldened an increasingly hysterical right wing that morphed into the modern-day tea party — a group that in the liberal and progres-

sive imagination resembles the terrifying zombies from the television series "The Walking Dead."

But whatever the genuine merits of such criticism, the era of sweeping legislation — at least barring some midterm election miracle — is over for now. Pragmatically, the best Obama can do over the next three years is to offer an alternative policy vision, as he recently outlined in his 2015 budget (one that stands no chance of congressional passage), sign executive orders that are as impactful as possible; and use the White House as a bully pulpit to promote a vision of American society that may wind up being fulfilled only after he has left office.

For now, boosting the paychecks of millions of Americans unfairly exempted from overtime laws is a good start, even if long overdue. Ending deportations aimed at appealing right-wing voters and politicians who won't be satisfied until all "illegals" magically vanish from our shores is a positive step toward political reform that, however long delayed, will never be denied. It may seem an endlessly symbolic, or acknowledging the crisis that confronts young black men in America is historic, even if the level of funding for My Brother's Keeper doesn't address the depth of need. More than five years after entering office with grand — indeed, almost impossible — expectations, the president remains broken. He has seen the resilience against daunting opposition is at once an inspiration and example of what's at stake not only during the rest of his term in office but also long after he exits the national stage.

Peniel E. Joseph, a Tufts University history professor, founding director of the Center for the Study of Race and Democracy, the past senior fellow for the W.E.B. Du Bois Research Institute at Harvard and author of "Dark Days, Bright Nights: From Black Power to Barack Obama."

OPINION

We resent the rich more when we stagnate

By CATHERINE RAMPPELL
The Washington Post

People don't hate you because you're beautiful. People hate you because they are getting uglier.

Use that logic, substituting income for attractiveness, and you'll have a better grasp of why the 99.9 percent really resent the 0.1 percent.

Populist rhetoric is leaving U.S. billionaires feeling persecuted, vilified and begrudged their hard-won fortunes. Quoth Ken Langone, the billionaire co-founder of Home Depot, in Politico: "If you go back to 1933, with different words, this is what Hitler was saying in Germany. You don't survive as a society if you encourage and thrive on envy or jealousy."

His comment echoes the reductionist arguments venture capitalist Tom Perkins made in a recent Wall Street Journal letter to the editor, portending a "progressive Kristallnacht." (Was there a special session at Davos about Third Reich talking points?)

Yes, anti-inequality rhetoric has grown in recent years. But it's not the growing wealth of the wealthy that Americans are angry about, at least not in isolation. It's the growing wealth of the wealthy set against the stagnation or deterioration of living standards for everyone else. Polls show that Americans pretty much always want income to be distributed more equitably than it currently is, but they're more willing to tolerate inequality if they are still plugging ahead. That is, they care less about Lloyd Blankfein's gigantic bonus if they got even a tiny raise this year.

Unequivalently, the rich have gotten richer over time, and income has become more concentrated within a tighter tier of Americans. In the 1970s, the top 1 percent of families received about 8 percent of all income, whereas their share is nearly 20

percent today. Americans' concerns about inequality, however, don't closely track these changes in inequality.

The General Social Survey, for example, has asked Americans about attitudes toward the income distribution for almost 30 years. Peculiarly, it shows Americans were most critical of income inequality during the early and mid-1990s, when incomes were far less concentrated than they became in later years. Remember, though, that a jobless recovery was also strangling the middle class during that time.

What happened over the next few years of the tech boom is striking. Median household incomes grew, and the incomes of the highest earners skyrocketed, meaning the chasm between the rich and the rest widened. But public criticism of the distribution of income meanwhile fell. In other words, by 2000, inequality had objectively grown, but objections to inequality had shrunk. Not coincidentally, 2000 was also the year that Americans were most likely to agree with this statement: "The way things are in America, people like me and my family have a good chance of improving our standard of living."

In the years since the Great Recession, hostility toward inequality has again rebounded, probably also driven by concerns that the rich are moving onward and upward while everyone else is left behind.

The link between objections to inequality and perceptions of economic mobility can be traced down to the individual household level, too. Generally speaking, Americans who are pessimistic about their ability to improve their own living standards are more likely to think that "differences in income in America are too large," "inequality continues to exist because it benefits the rich and powerful," and "large differences in income are unnecessary for prosperity," according to survey analysis by Leslie McCall, a sociology professor at Northwestern



University.

Calculations based on a recent Pew Research Center survey likewise found that people who believed their family's income was falling behind the cost of living were more likely to say the government should do "a lot" to "reduce the gap between the rich and everyone else."

"When growth doesn't lift everyone, the rich are not seen as deserving, and income inequality can symbolize unfairness," explains McCall, who wrote "The Underestimating Rich: American Beliefs About Inequality, Opportunity, and Redistribution." As long as the rising tide is actually lifting all boats, people care less if some boats enjoy a bigger lift than others.

One implication of these polling trends is

that if the 0.1 percent want to be left alone—or at least not pursued by pitchforks and guillotines—they should probably support policies that promote the upward mobility of other Americans. That would include things such as early childhood education, more generous Pell grants and a higher minimum wage, for example. While some of these policies might require higher taxes, it's not clear that marginally improving mobility or raising the living standards of the most destitute would do much to hinder the very richest Americans' ability to continue getting even richer. So far, little else has.

Catherine Rampell, a former economics reporter for The New York Times, writes a twice-weekly column for The Washington Post.

Is 'great nation' at risk if pot is legal everywhere?

By BEN BOYCHUK and JOEL MATHIS
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

First, 20 states and the District of Columbia passed laws legalizing marijuana for medical use. Then in 2012, voters in Washington state and Colorado approved measures legalizing the sale and possession of marijuana for nonmedical use, with state oversight. Now at least a half-dozen states from Alaska to Maine are considering following suit.

Marijuana remains a federally controlled substance, but Attorney General Eric Holder in January said the U.S. Justice Department would soon issue regulations to let state-sanctioned marijuana businesses have access to banking and credit.

Can full legalization be far behind? Ben Boychuk and Joel Mathis, the RedBlueAmerica columnists, try to wrap their heads around the question.

BEN BOYCHUK

The University of Colorado system reports a 30 percent increase in applications this year. University officials credit their more and improved application, along with better high school outreach.

But High Times magazine, a sort of Cigar Aficionado for stoners, has a different explanation: It's the legal pot.

Can that really be true? A CU spokesman told the magazine he has "a hunch" that believing that someone is going to make

Tax marijuana, certainly, but also let employers decide whether they want stoners on their payrolls.

that kind of significant decision about investing in their education based on whether they can smoke marijuana in the state—which only suggests he hasn't visited his Boulder campus recently, or knows very much about the law of unintended consequences.

More kids looking for a cheap and legal high are one such consequence. Here's another: If you smoke pot and want to buy a gun in the Mile High State, odds are you will be turned down. Sure, marijuana use is legal under state law, but the federal government still considers it a crime, and no federally licensed firearms dealer would risk his business to make a point about states' rights.

Fact is, Congress isn't about to legalize pot, and Eric Holder won't be attorney general forever. More states venturing down the path of legalization invites conflicts with the feds that nobody can foresee.

But the better argument against legalization is cultural, and it comes from an unlikely source: California Gov. Jerry Brown.

A Democrat with a reputation for wild

ideas, Brown shared his skepticism about legalization on "Meet the Press" this month. "If there's advertising and legitimacy, how many people can get stoned and still have a great state or a great nation? The world's pretty dangerous, very competitive. I think we need to stay alert, if not 24 hours a day, more than some of the pot heads might be able to put together."

Brown is right. It may be the case that public opinion has shifted too far in favor of legalization. If so, then freedom must come with responsibility. Tax marijuana, certainly, but also let employers decide whether they want stoners on their payrolls, lay heavy penalties on sales to minors—and hope the unintended consequences aren't too dire.

JOEL MATHIS

Consider the following facts, courtesy of the American Civil Liberties Union:

"Every 0.01 hours someone in the United States is arrested for having marijuana; Black people are 3.73 times more likely to be arrested than white people. The United States spent \$3.4 billion enforcing marijuana laws in 2010."

Worth it? Almost certainly not.

Why? Marijuana may be illegal, but it's also pretty mainstream: A 2013 Gallup poll suggests that 38 percent of Americans have tried marijuana, a number that has little changed since the "Just Say No" reefer madness of the 1980s. And while Ronald Reagan had to withdraw a Supreme

Court appointee who admitted smoking pot more than a decade earlier, these days there's hardly anybody at the forefront of public life who won't admit having dabbled with doobies in their youth. The republic survives.

There are concerns that legalized pot would somehow rob America of its vigor: "How many people can get stoned and still have a great state or a great nation?" California Gov. Jerry Brown asks. Brown's rationale is almost exactly the same as was used for the failed prohibition of alcohol in the 1920s. We never learn.

"I remember in 1977 when Gov. Brown was first in office, we went from indeterminate sentencing to determinate sentencing—we had 20,000 people in our prisons. In 2007, we had 173,000 people in our prisons," California Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom pointed out recently. "You start looking at the war on drugs, you look at the corollaries as it relates to mandatory minimums and our aggressive efforts ... to incarcerate our way to solving this problem, it's failed. A trillion dollars wasted."

Criminalizing weed makes hypocrites out of otherwise law-abiding Americans, reduces respect for the law, and saddles our nation with the expense of prosecution and prison for folks who pose very little threat to society. Thank goodness for the legalization movement.

Ben Boychuk is associate editor of the Manhattan Institute's City Journal. Joel Mathis is associate editor for Philadelphia Magazine.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Jets sign Vick to challenge Smith for QB job

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Michael Vick is in for the New York Jets.

Mark Sanchez is out.

And, the stage is set for one hot quarterback competition this summer with Geno Smith.

The Jets signed the former Philadelphia Eagles quarterback to a one-year deal Friday, and released Sanchez, the one-time face of the franchise.

"Anywhere I go, or any team, I'm always going to compete for the No. 1 spot," Vick said during a conference call. "And I will encourage any other quarterback behind me or in front of me to always compete for their job, for the No. 1 spot."

"That's how champions are made."

Vick will present a real challenge to Smith, who played well down the stretch of his rookie season, but finished with 12 touchdowns and 21 interceptions. The Jets, however, never labeled Smith their starter entering the offseason — and last year's second-round draft pick will have his work cut out during training camp if he intends to be under center in Week 1 this season.

Vick was a free agent after spending the past five seasons with the Eagles. He will be reunited with Jets offensive coordinator Marty Mornhinweg, who helped the quarterback have the best season of his career in Philadelphia in 2010. Vick was plagued by injuries the past three years and lost the starting job last year to Nick Foles.

Vick thanked the Eagles, their fans and the city of Philadelphia in an open letter posted on The Philadelphia Inquirer's website.

"I was honored to be their quarterback and took the privilege to heart every day," he wrote.

Vick, a four-time Pro Bowl selection who will be 34 in June, was once considered the most dynamic player in the NFL, particularly during his first six NFL seasons with the Atlanta Falcons. His playing career was abruptly halted for two seasons in 2007 when he pleaded guilty to being part of a dog fighting ring. He served 21 months in federal prison, and two more in home confinement. Since his release in 2009, Vick has worked with the Humane Society of the United States to stop organized animal fighting.

Sanchez's release came as no surprise, but completes a stunning downfall for the quarterback who once drew comparisons



RON CORTES, PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER/MCT

Michael Vick, who suffered numerous injuries the past three seasons, lost his starting job with the Philadelphia Eagles to Nick Foles last season.

to Joe Namath after helping lead the Jets to consecutive AFC title games in 2009 and 2010. He struggled with consistency after that, and spent last season on injured reserve after tearing the labrum in his right shoulder in a preseason game.

Sanchez had three years remaining on his contract, but his \$13.1 million salary cap number for next season — and \$2 million roster bonus due Tuesday — made it unlikely the team would keep him at that amount.

In other NFL news:

■ The Oakland Raiders acquired Matt Schaub from Houston for a sixth-round draft pick, giving the quarterback a second chance after he lost his starting job with the Texans last season. The deal also is a second chance for Oakland general manager Reggie McKenzie, whose trade last spring for Matt Flynn was a bust when he couldn't win the starting job and was eventually released early in the season.

■ The Cincinnati Bengals signed offensive tackle Marshall Newhouse from Green Bay on Friday, reuniting him with

college teammate Andy Dalton. Newhouse was an unrestricted free agent after spending four seasons in Green Bay. He played in 14 games last season, starting two of them. He was the left tackle at Texas Christian for three years while Dalton was the quarterback.

■ The estate of Hall of Famer Mike Webster and dozens of former players suing the league over concussion injuries agreed to pause their lawsuit to see if it will join other similar cases being reviewed by a federal judge for settlement.

■ Tennessee Titans defensive end Akeem Odoms has been arrested in a prostitution sting. A Miami police report stated the 25-year-old South Florida native was booked into jail Friday morning on a charge of soliciting a prostitute. He was being held on \$500 bail.

Kenseth wins Cup pole

FONTANA, Calif. — Matt Kenseth on Friday won the pole for Sunday's NASCAR Sprint Cup race at Fontana, edging Brad Keselowski.

Kenseth won his first pole of the season for Joe Gibbs Racing by turning a lap at 187.315 mph, beating Keselowski's 187.105.

Five-time Fontana champion Jimmie Johnson was third, followed by Kevin Harvick. Clint Bowyer came in fifth.

Announcer drops ethnic slur

SAN DIEGO — CBS announcer Andrew Catalon apologized to a Polish-born Gonzaga player for using a derogatory term while describing the defense Oklahoma State was using against Przemek Karnowski.

In an effort to make a comeback in the second half, Oklahoma State started deliberately fouling Karnowski, who is a poor free-throw shooter. Catalon, the play-by-play announcer for the game, called the strategy "Hack-a-Polack."

Catalon apologized on the air for using the term, and then found Karnowski after the game to apologize to him personally.

Scott leads by 7 at Bay Hill

ORLANDO, Fla. — Adam Scott matched the lowest 36-hole score in the Arnold Palmer Invitational and took a record seven-shot lead into the weekend.

On a tougher and more blustery afternoon at Bay Hill, the Masters champion

birdied five of eight holds late in the second round. Even with a three-putt bogey on his last hole, Scott finished with a 4-under 68.

He was at 14-under 130, tying the 36-hole record at Bay Hill shared by Tom Watson and Andy Bean in 1981. His seven-shot lead over J.B. Holmes, Chesson Hadley and Francesco Molinari shattered the mark for the largest lead in this event. Tiger Woods (2002) and Paul Azinger (1988) led by four shots; both went on to win.

Also:

■ At Phoenix, Mirim Lee remained atop the JTBC Founders Cup leaderboard in her third LPGA Tour start. The 23-year-old South Korean player shot a 5-under 67 Friday to take a two-stroke advantage over 16-year-old Lydia Ko into the weekend at Desert Ridge's Wildfire Golf Club.

Tigers acquire SS Romine

KISSIMMEE, Fla. — The Detroit Tigers quickly moved to help replace injured shortstop Jose Iglesias, acquiring Andrew Romine from the Los Angeles Angels for left-hander Jose Alvarez.

The AL Central champions dealt for Romine a day after they learned Iglesias could miss the season because of stress fractures in both legs.

In other MLB news:

■ The Cincinnati Reds' Skip Schumaker dislocated his left shoulder while making a diving attempt to cut off a line drive in the outfield on Friday and will miss about a month. The veteran utility player signed a two-year contract with the Reds on November 26. He is expected to provide backup at second base and the outfield.

Federer wins in Sony return

KEY BISCAYNE, Fla. — Roger Federer made a victorious return to the Sony Open after skipping last year's tournament, beating big-serving Ivo Karlovic 6-4, 7-6 (4) Friday. Federer lost only three service points against his 6-foot-11 opponent, and in a match with few rallies, he committed only three unforced errors.

Three-time champion Novak Djokovic followed Federer onto the stadium court and into the third round, beating Jeremy Chardy 6-4, 6-3. Defending champion Andy Murray, playing for the first time since he parted with coach Ivan Lendl, rallied from a break down in the third set to beat Matthew Ebden 3-6, 6-0, 6-1.



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NHL



JOE MAHONEY/AP

Boston center Patrice Bergeron, left, collides with Colorado left wing Patrick Bordeleau during the second period of Friday's game in Denver. Bergeron scored his 21st goal this season during the game.

Roundup

Bruins blank Avalanche, stretch win streak to 11

The Associated Press

DENVER — The Boston Bruins became the first NHL team to clinch a spot in the Stanley Cup playoffs. And they did it by refusing to get ahead of themselves.

Patrice Bergeron and Carl Soderberg each had a goal, Chad Johnson stopped 31 shots for his third career shutout, and the Bruins beat the Colorado Avalanche 2-0 on Friday night for their 11th win in a row.

"We don't really worry about how many we've won or who we're playing in one day or two days," Johnson said. "We just worry about who's next. That's sort of where our mindset is. Just staying in the moment, I think, is the biggest key to our success right now."

Boston defenseman Zdeno Chara beat clinching a postseason berth won't alter that mindset. "We still have to play our hockey, really focusing on the little details going into the playoffs, and not getting satisfied and complacent," he said. "We just still have to push our team to the best, maximum results."

Johnson was at the center of their latest success, which pushed their point total to 101, the 21st time the team has reached the 100-point threshold.

"He made some saves that helped us a lot," Boston defenseman Dougie Hamilton said. "I thought he played really well."

Colorado pulled goalie Semyon Varlamov for an extra attacker with five minutes remaining but couldn't avert its first shutout of the season. The Avalanche had scored at least once in 80 straight games since their previous shutout last April 6 at Phoenix.

"They slowed us down and they did a good job," Colorado's Matt Duchene said of Boston. "We hadn't been shut out all year. Usually, it happens against great teams."

Colorado, which handed Boston its only shutout of the season on Oct. 10, was the last NHL team to be blanked this season.

"I thought our play was very positive," Avalanche coach Patrick Roy said. "We had a lot of good chances early on. Except for maybe the first six or seven

minutes of the start of the third, I thought we played better than them. Their goalie played really well. He made some great saves."

Johnson turned away a flurry of shots in the final minutes and delivered two key saves in the second period, using his glove to stop Nathan MacKinnon's shot on a breakaway and stuffing Jan Hejda's shot from up close with his upper body.

"They had some good chances there in the second, and I just tried to be in position and make the saves when I thought I could," said Johnson, who improved to 10-0-1 in his last 11 starts.

With the Bruins on the power play, Loui Eriksson passed to Soderberg in the lower right circle for a wrist shot into the upper corner of the net on Varlamov's stick side. That made it 2-0 at 13:11 of the second period.

Rangers 3, Blue Jackets 1: Derek Brassard and Derek Stepan scored third-period goals, and Henrik Lundqvist made 25 saves to lead visiting New York over Columbus.

It was the first game back in Columbus for Rangers star Rick Nash, the Blue Jackets' franchise leader in goals, assists and games. He was given a standing ovation during a video tribute in the first period, but was booed after a second-period, two-handed shove of Columbus goalie Sergei Bobrovsky.

Blackhawks 3, Hurricanes 2: Jonathan Toews' short-handed breakaway goal early in the third period broke a tie as host Chicago edged Carolina.

Patrick Sharp scored his team-leading 30th goal and Kris Versteeg ended an eight-game drought to help the Blackhawks win without leading scorer Patrick Kane, who was placed on long-term injured reserve after sustaining a lower-body injury on Wednesday.

Predators 6, Flames 5: Shea Weber scored twice, including the go-ahead goal late in the third period, and visiting Nashville escaped with a one-goal win over Calgary.

Tied 4-4 and with the Predators on the power play, Weber took a perfect pass from Matt Cullen and blasted a high slap shot past Joey MacDonald from the faceoff dot to put Nashville back into the lead at 14:28.

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

| | GP | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|
| Boston | 70 | 48 | 17 | 5 | 101 | 225 | 149 |
| Tampa Bay | 70 | 39 | 24 | 7 | 85 | 208 | 185 |
| Montreal | 71 | 36 | 36 | 7 | 83 | 182 | 180 |
| Toronto | 71 | 36 | 27 | 8 | 80 | 208 | 219 |
| Detroit | 69 | 34 | 34 | 13 | 81 | 183 | 184 |
| Ottawa | 69 | 28 | 28 | 13 | 69 | 188 | 234 |
| Florida | 70 | 26 | 36 | 8 | 60 | 173 | 225 |
| Buffalo | 70 | 20 | 42 | 8 | 48 | 135 | 206 |

Metropolitan Division

| | GP | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA |
|----------------|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|
| Pittsburgh | 69 | 45 | 10 | 5 | 95 | 218 | 173 |
| Philadelphia | 69 | 37 | 25 | 7 | 81 | 199 | 197 |
| Colorado | 70 | 36 | 28 | 6 | 80 | 188 | 175 |
| Columbus | 70 | 36 | 28 | 6 | 78 | 200 | 192 |
| Washington | 71 | 33 | 27 | 11 | 77 | 205 | 211 |
| New Jersey | 70 | 30 | 37 | 13 | 73 | 172 | 183 |
| Carolina | 70 | 30 | 31 | 9 | 69 | 174 | 198 |
| N.Y. Islanders | 70 | 26 | 35 | 9 | 61 | 159 | 239 |

Western Conference

| | GP | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|
| St. Louis | 69 | 47 | 15 | 7 | 101 | 226 | 156 |
| Chicago | 71 | 41 | 15 | 15 | 97 | 240 | 184 |
| Colorado | 71 | 41 | 21 | 6 | 94 | 216 | 194 |
| Minnesota | 70 | 36 | 23 | 11 | 83 | 174 | 172 |
| Dallas | 69 | 26 | 31 | 11 | 75 | 186 | 201 |
| Winnipeg | 71 | 32 | 30 | 9 | 73 | 199 | 208 |
| Nashville | 71 | 30 | 31 | 10 | 70 | 171 | 113 |

Pacific Division

| | GP | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA |
|-------------|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|
| San Jose | 71 | 46 | 18 | 7 | 99 | 219 | 170 |
| Anaheim | 70 | 45 | 18 | 7 | 97 | 222 | 178 |
| Los Angeles | 70 | 39 | 25 | 6 | 84 | 170 | 149 |
| Phoenix | 70 | 34 | 25 | 11 | 79 | 184 | 197 |
| Vancouver | 72 | 32 | 30 | 10 | 74 | 172 | 194 |
| Calgary | 70 | 28 | 35 | 7 | 63 | 173 | 209 |
| Edmonton | 71 | 25 | 37 | 9 | 59 | 177 | 228 |
| Nashville | 71 | 30 | 31 | 10 | 70 | 171 | 113 |

Note: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.

Friday's games
N.Y. Rangers 3, Carolina 2
Chicago 3, Carolina 2
Boston 2, Colorado 0
Nashville 6, Calgary 5

Saturday's games
St. Louis at Philadelphia
Tampa Bay at Pittsburgh
Detroit at Minnesota
Ottawa at Dallas
Florida at Los Angeles
Montreal at Toronto
N.Y. Rangers at New Jersey
Carolina at Winnipeg
Boston at Phoenix
Calgary at Edmonton
Washington at San Jose

Sunday's games
Columbus at N.Y. Islanders
St. Louis at Pittsburgh
Toronto at New Jersey
Nashville at Chicago
Minnesota at Detroit
Buffalo at Vancouver
Florida at Anaheim

Friday

| | GP | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA |
|----------|----|---|---|----|-----|----|----|
| Boston | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Colorado | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

First Period—1, Boston, Bergeron 11 (Hamilton, Chara) 5:12.
Second Period—2, Boston, Soderberg 13 (Eriksson, Hamilton), 13:11 (pp).
Third Period—0, Boston, Soderberg 13 (Eriksson, Hamilton), 13:11 (pp).

Shots on Goal—Boston 6-12-10-28. Colorado 14-10-7-31.
Power-play opportunities—Boston 1 of 1; Colorado 0 of 3.

Goals—Boston: Johnson 16-3-1 (31 shots-31 saves). Colorado: Varlamov 34-14 (28-36).
A—18,007 (18,007), T—2:20.

Bruins 2, Avalanche 0
0 0 0-0
0 0 0-0
0 0 0-0

First Period—1, Boston, Bergeron 11 (Hamilton, Chara) 5:12.
Second Period—2, Boston, Soderberg 13 (Eriksson, Hamilton), 13:11 (pp).
Third Period—0, Boston, Soderberg 13 (Eriksson, Hamilton), 13:11 (pp).

Shots on Goal—Boston 6-12-10-28. Colorado 14-10-7-31.
Power-play opportunities—Boston 1 of 1; Colorado 0 of 3.

Goals—Boston: Johnson 16-3-1 (31 shots-31 saves). Colorado: Varlamov 34-14 (28-36).
A—18,007 (18,007), T—2:20.

Bruins 2, Avalanche 0
0 0 0-0
0 0 0-0
0 0 0-0

First Period—1, Boston, Bergeron 11 (Hamilton, Chara) 5:12.
Second Period—2, Boston, Soderberg 13 (Eriksson, Hamilton), 13:11 (pp).
Third Period—0, Boston, Soderberg 13 (Eriksson, Hamilton), 13:11 (pp).

Shots on Goal—Boston 6-12-10-28. Colorado 14-10-7-31.
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A—18,007 (18,007), T—2:20.

Bruins 2, Avalanche 0
0 0 0-0
0 0 0-0
0 0 0-0

First Period—1, Boston, Bergeron 11 (Hamilton, Chara) 5:12.
Second Period—2, Boston, Soderberg 13 (Eriksson, Hamilton), 13:11 (pp).
Third Period—0, Boston, Soderberg 13 (Eriksson, Hamilton), 13:11 (pp).

Shots on Goal—Boston 6-12-10-28. Colorado 14-10-7-31.
Power-play opportunities—Boston 1 of 1; Colorado 0 of 3.

Goals—Boston: Johnson 16-3-1 (31 shots-31 saves). Colorado: Varlamov 34-14 (28-36).
A—18,007 (18,007), T—2:20.

Blackhawks 3, Hurricanes 2

| | GP | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA |
|----------|----|---|---|----|-----|----|----|
| Chicago | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| Carolina | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 |

First Period—1, Chicago, Shaw 10 (Shaw, Handzus), 3:09. 2, Chicago, Versteeg 11 (Handzus, Broberg), 16:26. 3, Carolina, Semin 20 (E. Staal, Sekera), 19:22.

Second Period—0, Carolina, Semin 21 (E. Staal), 4:38 (pp). 5, Chicago, Toews 26, 3:29 (sh).

Third Period—4, Carolina, Semin 21 (E. Staal), 4:38 (pp). 5, Chicago, Toews 26, 3:29 (sh).

Shots on Goal—Carolina 4-14-10-28. Chicago 11-9-5-25.

Power-play opportunities—Carolina 1 of 6; Chicago 0 of 5.

Goals—Carolina, Khudobin 15-11-0 (25 shots-22 saves). Chicago, Crawford 28-12-10 (28-26).
A—21,887 (19,171), T—2:22.

Predators 6, Flames 5
2 2 2-6
1 3 1-5

First Period—1, Nashville, Bartley 1 (C. Smith, S. Jones), 5:10. 2, Nashville, Weber 17 (Fisher, Cullen), 5:59. 3, Calgary, Russell 5 (Giordano, Cammalleri), 19:26 (pp).

Second Period—4, Nashville, Hornqvist 14 (Del Zotto, Cullen), 4:10. 5, Calgary, Cammalleri 21 (Russell), 6:23. 6, Calgary, Hudler 15 (Giordano, Glenross), 7:14. 7, Nashville, Stalberg 8 (Bourque, Jarmarko), 8:06. 8, Calgary, Backlund 18 (Bourque, Mcgrattan), 13:31.

Third Period—9, Nashville, Weber 18 (Cullen, Hornqvist), 14:28 (pp). 10, Nashville, Cullen 7 (Josi, Hornqvist), 17:08. 11, Calgary, Cammalleri 22 (Russell, Backlund), 17:36.

Shots on Goal—Nashville 6-9-7-22. Calgary 9-10-10-29.

Power-play opportunities—Nashville 1 of 2; Calgary 1 of 2.

Goals—Nashville, Rinne (18 shots-14 saves), Hutton 16-11-4 (13-31 second, 11-10). Calgary, Orto (13-9), MacDonald 4-4-1 (8:06 second, 9-7).
A—13,288 (13,288), T—2:27.

Rangers 3, Blue Jackets 1
N.Y. Rangers 0 0 3-3
Columbus 0 0 1-1

First Period—1, Columbus, Foligno 18, 11:12. 2, N.Y. Rangers, Stepan 14 (McDonagh, Stralman), 1:56. 3, N.Y. Rangers, Brassard 16 (Stralman, McDonagh), 11:31. 4, N.Y. Rangers, Hagelin 17 (Zuccarello, Staal), 18:21 (en).

Shots on Goal—N.Y. Rangers 14-12-6-32. Columbus 9-6-11-26.

Power-play opportunities—N.Y. Rangers 0 of 4; Columbus 0 of 3.

Goals—N.Y. Rangers, Lundqvist 27-22-4 (26 shots-25 saves). Columbus, Bobrovsky 27-18-4 (31-29).
A—15,513 (18,144), T—2:24.

Scoring leaders

| | GP | G | A | Pts |
|-----------------------------|----|----|----|-----|
| Sidney Crosby, Pittsburgh | 63 | 33 | 58 | 91 |
| Evan Getzlaf, Anaheim | 66 | 29 | 47 | 76 |
| Phil Kessel, Toronto | 71 | 35 | 39 | 74 |
| Evan Getzlaf, Anaheim | 66 | 29 | 47 | 76 |
| Claude Giroux, Philadelphia | 69 | 24 | 48 | 72 |
| Corey Perry, Anaheim | 69 | 23 | 47 | 70 |
| Patrick Sharp, Chicago | 71 | 30 | 39 | 69 |
| Patrick Kane, Chicago | 69 | 29 | 40 | 69 |
| Kyle Okpos, New York | 69 | 27 | 42 | 69 |
| Jeff Carter, New York | 71 | 13 | 56 | 69 |
| Joe Thornton, San Jose | 71 | 11 | 58 | 69 |



JEFF HAYNES/AP

Chicago goalie Corey Crawford (50) makes a save on a shot by Carolina center Elias Lindholm on Friday in Chicago.

Scoreboard



NBA



NATHAN DENETTE, THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP

Oklahoma City forward Kevin Durant is congratulated by teammate Serge Ibaka, left, after hitting a three-pointer with 1.7 seconds left in the second overtime of Friday's game against the Raptors in Toronto. The Thunder won 119-118 in double overtime.

Roundup

Thunder scores 5 in double overtime to win

The Associated Press

TORONTO — Kevin Durant had 51 points and 12 rebounds to lead the Oklahoma City Thunder past the Toronto Raptors 119-118 in double overtime, despite losing NBA All-Star guard Russell Westbrook to a right knee injury in the third quarter.

Durant hit the go-head three with 1.7 seconds left in the second overtime to win it for the Thunder, who won their fourth straight and finished off a 3-0 road trip.

Durant has scored 25 or more in 34 straight games, the NBA's longest streak since Michael Jordan did it in 40 consecutive games in 1986-87.

Knicks 93, 76ers 92: Amare Stoudemire had 22 points and 10 rebounds and Carmelo Anthony scored 21 as New York beat Philadelphia for its eighth straight win.

It was the 23rd straight loss for the Sixers, matching the Vancouver Grizzlies (1995-96), Denver Nuggets (1997-98) and Charlotte Bobcats (2011-12) for the second-longest single-season losing streak in NBA history.

Pacers 91, Bulls 79: Luis Scola had 19 points and Lance Stephenson finished with 15 to lead host Indiana over Chicago.

The Pacers, who went on a 19-0 run in the third quarter, now have a 13-game lead over the Bulls in the Central Division.

Nets 114, Celtics 98: Joe Johnson hit six three-pointers in his 27 points and Mason Plumlee added 18 points as Brooklyn won its 11th straight at home, beating Boston.

Former Celtic Paul Pierce and Toronto's Andrei Blatche and Jorge Gutierrez added 10 apiece

for the Nets, who won their third straight game.

Heat 91, Grizzlies 86: Ray Allen scored 18 points to lead Miami to a comeback victory over visiting Memphis.

Miami rallied from an 84-77 deficit with 4:08 remaining and scored 11 unanswered points.

Mavericks 122, Nuggets 106: Monta Ellis scored 26 points and Dirk Nowitzki added 21 as Dallas pulled away from visiting Denver in the fourth quarter.

The Mavericks avoided a season sweep by the Nuggets, who ran away with a win in Denver two weeks ago to hand Dallas its longest losing streak at three games.

Suns 98, Pistons 92: Eric Bledsoe scored 15 of his 23 points in the fourth quarter, as he Phoenix pulled out a victory over Detroit.

Goran Dragic added 20 points, 15 in the first half, and Markieff Morris scored 16 for the Suns.

Wizards 117, Lakers 107: John Wall had 28 points and 14 assists, leading visiting Washington past spiraling Los Angeles.

Steve Nash, who sat out 15 games because of chronic nerve damage in his back that has limited him to 11 appearances all season, had 11 assists and five rebounds in 19 minutes off the bench for the Lakers.

Spurs 99, Kings 79: Marco Belinelli scored 13 of his 17 points in the fourth quarter and Kawhi Leonard had 15 points and seven rebounds as NBA-leading San Antonio eased past host Sacramento for its 12th straight win.

Pelicans 111, Hawks 105: Anthony Davis had 34 points and 11 rebounds as New Orleans beat host Atlanta.

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

| Atlantic Division | | | |
|-------------------|----|----|------|
| | W | L | Pct |
| Toronto | 39 | 30 | .569 |
| Brooklyn | 36 | 31 | .537 |
| New York | 29 | 40 | .420 |
| Boston | 23 | 47 | .329 |
| Philadelphia | 19 | 51 | .271 |

| Southeast Division | | | |
|--------------------|----|----|------|
| | W | L | Pct |
| x-Miami | 47 | 20 | .701 |
| Washington | 39 | 33 | .543 |
| Charlotte | 33 | 36 | .476 |
| Atlanta | 31 | 38 | .447 |
| Orlando | 19 | 50 | .279 |

| Central Division | | | |
|------------------|----|----|------|
| | W | L | Pct |
| x-Indiana | 38 | 28 | .573 |
| Cleveland | 38 | 31 | .551 |
| Cleveland | 28 | 43 | .397 |
| Detroit | 25 | 43 | .368 |
| Minneapolis | 26 | 56 | .318 |

Western Conference

| Southwest Division | | | |
|--------------------|----|----|------|
| | W | L | Pct |
| San Antonio | 52 | 16 | .765 |
| Houston | 42 | 26 | .615 |
| Dallas | 42 | 28 | .600 |
| Memphis | 42 | 28 | .600 |
| New Orleans | 28 | 40 | .414 |

| Northwest Division | | | |
|--------------------|----|----|------|
| | W | L | Pct |
| Oklahoma City | 51 | 18 | .739 |
| Portland | 45 | 24 | .652 |
| Minnesota | 44 | 27 | .618 |
| Denver | 31 | 38 | .449 |
| Utah | 47 | 31 | .603 |

| Pacific Division | | | |
|------------------|----|----|------|
| | W | L | Pct |
| L.A. Clippers | 48 | 21 | .690 |
| San Diego | 48 | 25 | .657 |
| Phoenix | 40 | 28 | .588 |
| Golden State | 44 | 24 | .646 |
| L.A. Lakers | 46 | 34 | .574 |

| Thursday's games | | | |
|------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Houston 128, Minnesota 110 | | | |
| Portland 116, Washington 103 | | | |
| Golden State 115, Utah 110 | | | |

| Friday's games | | | |
|--------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Indiana 91, Chicago 77 | | | |
| New York 93, Philadelphia 92 | | | |
| Oklahoma City 119, Toronto 118 | | | |
| New Orleans 111, Atlanta 105 | | | |
| Miami 91, Memphis 86 | | | |

| Saturday's games | | | |
|---------------------------------|--|--|--|
| San Antonio 89, Sacramento 79 | | | |
| Washington 117, L.A. Lakers 107 | | | |
| Portland at Charlotte | | | |
| San Antonio at Golden State | | | |
| Oriando at L.A. Clippers | | | |

| Sunday's games | | | |
|------------------------|--|--|--|
| Atlanta at Toronto | | | |
| Phoenix at Minnesota | | | |
| San Antonio at Dallas | | | |
| Memphis at Sacramento | | | |
| Cleveland at New York | | | |
| Oriando at L.A. Lakers | | | |

| Monday's games | | | |
|-----------------------------|--|--|--|
| San Antonio at Dallas | | | |
| Portland at Charlotte | | | |
| San Antonio at Golden State | | | |
| Oriando at L.A. Clippers | | | |

| Tuesday's games | | | |
|------------------------|--|--|--|
| Atlanta at Toronto | | | |
| Phoenix at Minnesota | | | |
| San Antonio at Dallas | | | |
| Memphis at Sacramento | | | |
| Cleveland at New York | | | |
| Oriando at L.A. Lakers | | | |

| Wednesday's games | | | |
|-----------------------------|--|--|--|
| San Antonio at Dallas | | | |
| Portland at Charlotte | | | |
| San Antonio at Golden State | | | |
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| Thursday's games | | | |
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| San Antonio at Dallas | | | |
| Portland at Charlotte | | | |
| San Antonio at Golden State | | | |
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Pelicans forward Anthony Davis

| Atlantic Division | | | |
|-------------------|----|----|------|
| | W | L | Pct |
| Toronto | 39 | 30 | .569 |
| Brooklyn | 36 | 31 | .537 |
| New York | 29 | 40 | .420 |
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| Washington | 39 | 33 | .543 |
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|------------------|----|----|------|
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| Cleveland | 28 | 43 | .397 |
| Detroit | 25 | 43 | .368 |
| Minneapolis | 26 | 56 | .318 |

Western Conference

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|--------------------|----|----|------|
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| Houston | 42 | 26 | .615 |
| Dallas | 42 | 28 | .600 |
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| Northwest Division | | | |
|--------------------|----|----|------|
| | W | L | Pct |
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| San Diego | 48 | 25 | .657 |
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| L.A. Lakers | 46 | 34 | .574 |

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| Houston 128, Minnesota 110 | | | |
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|--------------------------------|--|--|--|
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| New York 93, Philadelphia 92 | | | |
| Oklahoma City 119, Toronto 118 | | | |
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5-12 3-4 1, Webster 1-5 0-0 2, Gooden 5-1
1-1 11, Miller 3-3 1-2 8, Seraphin 0-0 0-0 0
Temple 0-0 0-0 0, Porter Jr. 0-0 0-0 0. Tot
tals 42-87 23-29 117.

L.A. LAKERS — Bazemore 1-3 1-33, Gasco
6-14 2-5 14, Sacre 5-8 1-11, Marshall 2-8 0
0.4, Moore 2-17 5-6 21, Kelly 2-4 1-27, Hoge

NCAA TOURNAMENT



ADAM LAU, KNOXVILLE NEWS SENTINEL/AP

Tennessee guard Jordan McRae, center, gets to the hoop in front of Massachusetts forward Jamell Stokes (22) and center Cody Lalanne, while Volunteers forward Jarnell Stokes, right, looks on during the second half on Friday. Tennessee won 86-67.

Midwest Region

Stokes, Vols top UMass

Top seeded Wichita State rolls; Mercer stuns Duke

The Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — Jordan McRae flew in to throw down a dunk on the break and increase Tennessee's big first-half lead, then came down the floor to scream triumphantly toward the orange-clad fans near the court.

Confident? Check. Enthusiastic? Yep.

Maybe playing in the First Four to get the jitters out wasn't such a bad thing for these Volunteers after all.

Jarnell Stokes scored a career-high 26 points and grabbed 14 rebounds to help Tennessee beat Massachusetts 86-67 on Friday in the second round of the NCAA Midwest Regional, earning the program's most lopsided win in the tournament in seven years.

Now 11th-seeded Tennessee faces 14th-seeded Mercer, which beat No. 3 seed Duke, in the third round on Sunday. The game is a rematch of an NIT game won by Mercer at Tennessee last year.

"We didn't come into this tournament saying, 'OK, if we beat UMass we can play Duke.' Not at all," Tennessee coach Cuonzo Martin said. "Our guys understand that it's one game at a time. Anything happens this time of year."

McRae added 21 points for the Volunteers (23-12), who had little trouble with the sixth-seeded Minutemen (24-9) in a surprisingly one-sided performance.

"We just wanted to keep our foot on the gas the whole time," McRae said.



GERY BROOME/AP

Duke guard Andre Dawkins walks off the court after losing 78-71 to Mercer on Friday.

Wichita State 64, Cal Poly 37: At St. Louis, Cleanthony Early had 23 points and the unbeaten Shockers faced no resistance from the Mustangs, going to 35-0 for the best start in NCAA history.

Top-seeded Wichita State (35-0) dominated from the opening tip against the only team with a losing record in the tournament. With the exception of Early, most of the glaring numbers were on defense. Cal Poly managed 13 points in the first half and shot 21 percent.

Malik Love had nine points for the Mustangs (14-20), who won the Big West tournament as the No. 7 seed.

Kentucky 56, Kansas State 49: At St. Louis, Julius Randle had 19 points and 15 rebounds, Aaron Harrison finished with 18 points and the No. 8-seeded Wildcats held off Kansas State to earn a date with Wichita State in the next round.

The preseason No. 1, Kentucky (25-10) is finally starting to live up to the expectations that came with its heralded recruiting class. John Calipari's bunch nearly knocked off Florida in the SEC title game last week and seemed to carry that momentum right into the Scotttrade Center.

Marcus Foster had 15 points, Shane Southwell scored 11 and Thomas Gipson finished with 10 for Kansas State (20-13), which started in a 1-0 hole after a technical for a dunk in pregame warmups. The No. 9 seed then struggled to hit from the perimeter against Kentucky's tall lineup.

Mercer 78, Duke 71: At Raleigh, N.C., Jakob Gollon scored 20 points and the Bears pulled off the biggest upset in the NCAA tournament so far by knocking off the Blue Devils in the second round.

Fourteenth-seeded and senior-laden Mercer scored 11 straight points during a late 20-5 run that clinched the biggest victory in school history. It was the second one-and-done in three years for Daniel Coursey Duke.

Daniel Coursey added 17 points to help Mercer (27-8) overcome a season-high 15 three-pointers from the Blue Devils.

Upset: More small schools deserve chance at tourney

FROM BACK PAGE

It's time for the selection committee to get with the times, to recognize how much the college basketball landscape has changed in the past decade or so. In this era of here-today, gone-tomorrow stars at so many of the high-profile schools, the out-of-touch group that decides who gets an invite to its 68-team party is leaving a LOT of deserving teams on the sideline. Believe us when we say, there's a lot more Mercers and Stephen F. Austins out there, not to mention Harvards and North Dakota States, both winners on Thursday.

Let's take a closer look at Mercer.

The Bears actually won the Atlantic Sun Conference a year ago, but were upset in the final of their league tournament by Florida Gulf Coast. Everyone knows the rest of the story. Mercer was sent packing to the NIT, while Dunk City got the A-Sun's automatic bid and went on to become the darlings of last year's NAAs with their thoroughly entertaining run to the Sweet 16.

This year, Mercer and Florida Gulf Coast tied for the conference title with matching 14-4 records, but it was the Bears getting payback in the A-Sun tournament by knocking off the Eagles on their home court. While Florida Gulf Coast settled for the NIT consolation prize, Mercer and its five senior starters claimed their first NCAA berth since 1985.

It's obvious they were both worthy of invitations to the Big Dance.

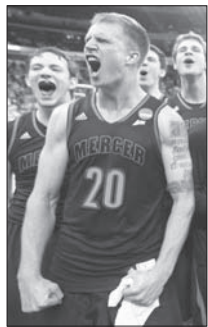
This year and last.

"There was no doubt in my mind that we were going to be there and have an opportunity" to beat Duke, Mercer coach Bob Hoffman said. "Everybody was calling us underdogs. I told them before we ran out, 'Let's be super dogs.'"

The NCAA could possibly take a step in the right direction by eliminating the automatic qualifiers, to give the committee more discretion in assembling the most-deserving field. But more than that, there needs to be a change in attitude, to acknowledge they play some pretty good hoops in conferences such as the Sun Belt, where Georgia State went 17-1 in conference play, lost in overtime to Louisiana-Lafayette in the final of its league tournament, and was probably never even considered for a spot in the NAAs.

Frankly, we would've taken both Georgia State and Florida Gulf Coast over schools such as the seventh-place team from the Big 12 or the sixth-place squad from the Atlantic Coast Conference — especially after watching Lafayette give third-seeded Creighton a scare on Friday.

On the first full day of the tournament, Harvard and North Dakota State pretty much wiped out everyone's brackets by beating Cincinnati and Oklahoma, respectively. Dayton surprised a lot of folks, too, with a one-point squeaker over its snooty neigh-



CHUCK BURTON/AP

Mercer team members celebrate their victory over Duke on Friday in Raleigh, N.C.

bors at Ohio State — you know, from the mighty Big Ten.

But, seriously folks, the guys at these lesser-known schools are pretty good.

Maybe not quite as talented and deep as the teams they're beating, but they make up for it with seasoning and cohesion that can't be measured by the RPI. Plus, they tend to play with a chip on their shoulders, having been passed over by the big boys during recruiting and eager to show they would've fared just fine in a prestigious league such as the ACC.

Count Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski among the converts. "They're not just experienced," he said of Mercer, the only team in the NCAA field that has started five seniors all season. "They're good."

That was quite a change from Krzyzewski's less-than-flattering assessment of another league that most people rank a notch below the power conferences but ahead of leagues such as the Atlantic Sun.

Last weekend during the ACC tournament, Krzyzewski insisted the Atlantic 10 wasn't deserving of six schools in the NCAA field.

"Come on," he said dismissively. "I mean, they're good, but put them in our conference and go through the meat grinder that our conference has to go through."

Turns out, the selection committee got that one right. Dayton advanced. Saint Louis knocked off North Carolina State — of the ACC, no less — in overtime. Saint Joseph gave UConn all it could handle before falling in OT. If Coach K wants to keep arguing that not all those A-10 teams were deserving, he'll have plenty of time to do it now.

His season is over.

Not so for Mercer and Stephen F. Austin and Harvard and North Dakota State.

They'll be playing on the weekend.

If there's any justice, more teams just like them will get their shot next year.

NCAA TOURNAMENT

East Region

Virginia rallies to avoid upset

Top-seeded Cavaliers deny history, at least for one more season

The Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — Coastal Carolina did enough in the first half to allow the Chanticleers to believe they could become the first No. 16 seed to beat a No. 1 seed in the NCAA tournament.

The Chanticleers just couldn't keep knocking down the shots that had given them a halftime lead once Virginia stepped up its defense.

Coastal Carolina shot 32 percent after halftime in Friday night's 70-59 loss in the second round of the East Region, a reversal from a first half that saw the Chanticleers cut through the Cavaliers' normally stingy defense to shoot 52 percent.

"We felt real good at halftime," guard Eric Smith said. "We did a good job early on following the game plan, which was to control the boards, take good shots when we get them."

The Chanticleers led by 10 in the first half and five at halftime before Virginia took over. "They played tremendous defense, especially the second half," coach Cliff Ellis said. "They really took us out of what we wanted to do."

For Virginia, Anthony Gill scored 17 points and the Cavaliers pushed ahead for good with about 9 minutes left.

A No. 16 seed has never beaten a No. 1 since the tournament expanded to 64 teams in 1985, and the Cavs (29-6) ensured history would wait at least another year.

Evan Nolte came off the bench and hit two huge three-pointers to help Virginia finally push away from the Big South champion Chanticleers (21-13), who were in the tournament for the first time in 21 years.

The game was tied at 47 before Nolte's threes powered a 23-7 spurt that finally put the game away.

Virginia shot 65 percent (13-for-20) after halftime — including 6-for-10 from three-point range — while locking down on Coastal Carolina.

Memphis 71, George Washington 66: At Raleigh, N.C., top sixth-man Michael Dixon Jr. scored 19 points and hit four free throws in the final 10 seconds to help the eighth-seeded Tigers hold off the ninth-seeded Colonials.

Jo Jackson added 15 points for Memphis (24-9), which is halfway to Geron Johnson's post-AAC tournament guarantee of two wins in the first weekend of the NAAs.

The Tigers entered the tournament having lost three of five to fall out of the national rankings, and shot 49 percent in this one but struggled to put the ninth-seeded Colonials away until the final seconds.

Isaiah Armwood scored a season-high 21 points after picking up his fourth foul with 12:02 left for ninth-seeded GW (24-9), which was just 2-for-12 from three-point range yet never fell behind by more than 10 points.

Leading scorer Maurice Creek — who averages 14 points — finished with nine on 2-for-13 shooting for GW, but he airballed a three-pointer in the final seconds that would have tied it.

Patricio Garino added 10 points for the Colonials, who were making their first NCAA tournament appearance since 2007.

North Carolina 79, Providence 77: At San Antonio, James Michael McAdoo sank two free throws in the final 3.5 seconds, and



GERRY BROOME/AP

Virginia forward Anthony Gill shoots over Coastal Carolina center El Hadji Ndiaguene during the first half of Friday's East Region game in Raleigh, N.C.

the sixth-seeded Tar Heels rallied to beat the 11th-seeded Friars.

Providence's Bryce Cotton scored a career-high 36 points and made one dazzling shot after another down the stretch. But he also fumbled a long rebound in the final moments, robbing the Friars of a chance for a last-second miracle.

Had North Carolina (24-9) lost, it would've been the first time since 1979 the Tar Heels and rival Duke lost on the same day of the tournament.

The Blue Devils fell earlier to 14th-seeded Mercer, and the Friars nearly handed North Carolina a similar stunner.

Marcus Paige led North Carolina with 19 points.

Saving the performance of his career for his final game at Providence, Cotton was 13-for-23 from the floor and had eight assists.

But there was nothing on his face but anguish after coralling a missed McAdoo free throw with less than 2 seconds left, only to fumble the ball off his knee and out of bounds.

McAdoo finished with 16 points and 10 rebounds and Brice Johnson also scored 16 for the Tar Heels.

Iowa State 93, North Carolina Central 75: At San Antonio, Georges Niang scored 24 points, but also broke his foot will miss the rest of the NCAA tournament, as the third-seeded Cyclones pulled away from the 14th-seeded Eagles in the second half.

The Big 12 tournament champions found themselves in an early struggle with a program making its first NCAA tournament appearance in just its third year as a full-time Division I program. But the Cyclones' quickness and balance eventually took over.

Iowa State (27-7) had five players score in double figures. Niang's two three-pointers early in the second half keyed Iowa State's run that put the game away.

Jeremy Ingram scored 28 for North Carolina Central (28-6), which came in on a 20-game win streak and won the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference.

There were just too many Cyclones doing too many things.

Ejim, the Big 12 player of the year, scored 17 points.

DeAndre Kane, the MVP of the Big 12 tournament, scored 14 with seven rebounds and five assists. Dustin Hogue and Monte Morris each scored 15.

Scoreboard

First round

At Dayton, Ohio
Tuesday, March 18
Albany (N.Y.) 71, Mount St. Mary's 64
N.C. State 74, Xavier 59
Wednesday, March 19
Cal Poly 81, Texas Southern 69
Tennessee 78, Iowa 65, OT

East Region

Second Round

Thursday, March 20
At Buffalo, N.Y.
UConn 89, Saint Joseph's 81, OT
Villanova 73, Milwaukee 53
At Spokane, Wash.
Harvard 61, Cincinnati 57
Michigan State 93, Delaware 78
Friday, March 21
At Raleigh, N.C.
Memphis 71, George Washington 66
Virginia 70, Coastal Carolina 59
At San Antonio
North Carolina 73, Providence 77
Iowa State 93, North Carolina Central 75
Third Round
Saturday, March 22
At Buffalo, N.Y.
Villanova (29-4) vs. UConn (27-8)
At Spokane, Wash.
Michigan State (27-9) vs. Harvard (27-4)
Sunday, March 23
At Raleigh, N.C.
Virginia (29-6) vs. Memphis (24-9)
At San Antonio
Iowa State (27-7) vs. North Carolina (24-9)

South Region

Second Round

Thursday, March 20
At Buffalo, N.Y.
Dayton 60, Ohio State 59
Syracuse 77, Western Michigan 53
Friday, March 21
At St. Louis
Stanford 58, New Mexico 53
Kansas 80, Eastern Kentucky 69
At San Diego
Stephen F. Austin 77, VCU 75, OT
UCLA 76, Tulsa 59
Third Round
Saturday, March 22
At First Niagara Center
Buffalo, N.Y.
Syracuse (28-5) vs. Dayton (24-10)
At The Amway Center
Orlando, Fla.
Florida (33-2) vs. Pittsburgh (26-9)
Sunday, March 23
At Scottrade Center
St. Louis
Kansas (25-9) vs. Stanford (22-12)
At Viejas Arena
San Diego
UCLA (27-8) vs. Stephen F. Austin (32-2)

Midwest Region

Second Round

Thursday, March 20
At Orlando, Fla.
Saint Louis 83, N.C. State 80, OT
Louisville 71, Manhattan 64
At Milwaukee
Michigan 57, Wofford 40
Texas 87, Arizona State 85
Friday, March 21
At Raleigh, N.C.
Mercer 78, Duke 71
Kentucky 86, UMass 67
At St. Louis
Wichita State 64, Cal Poly 37
Kentucky 56, Kansas State 49
Third Round
Saturday, March 22
At Orlando, Fla.
Louisville (30-5) vs. Saint Louis (27-6)
At Milwaukee
Michigan (26-9) vs. Texas (24-10)
Sunday, March 23
At Raleigh, N.C.
Mercer (27-8) vs. Tennessee (23-12)
At St. Louis
Wichita State (35-0) vs. Kentucky (25-10)

West Region

Second Round

Thursday, March 20
At Milwaukee
Wisconsin 75, American 35
Oregon 87, BYU 68
At Spokane, Wash.
North Dakota State 80, Oklahoma 75, OT
San Diego State 73, New Mexico State 68, OT
Friday, March 21
At Spokane, Wash.
Baylor 74, Nebraska 60
Creighton 76, Louisiana-Lafayette 66
At San Antonio
Arizona 68, Weber State 59
Gonzaga 85, Utah State 77
Third Round
Saturday, March 22
At Milwaukee
Wisconsin (27-7) vs. Oregon (24-9)
At Spokane, Wash.
San Diego State (30-4) vs. North Dakota State (26-6)
Sunday, March 23
At San Antonio
Creighton (27-7) vs. Baylor (25-11)
At San Diego
Arizona (31-4) vs. Gonzaga (29-6)

NCAA TOURNAMENT



DENIS POROBY/AP

Stephen F. Austin forward Ben Brown-White, second from right, hugs teammate guard Thomas Walkup after the Lumberjacks beat Virginia Commonwealth 77-75 in overtime of a second-round game Friday night in San Diego.

South Region

Stephen F. Austin stuns VCU

Lumberjacks make case for Cinderella with overtime victory

The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Pulling off a comeback for the ages, feisty Stephen F. Austin became the latest No. 12 seed to pull off an upset, tying the game on Desmond Haymon's did-that-just-happen four-point play with 3.6 seconds left, and then holding on in overtime for a 77-75 win over Virginia Commonwealth on Friday night.

SFA didn't have the biggest upset of the opening two rounds — Mercer probably gets the nod there with its win over Duke — but the Lumberjacks certainly had the most jaw-dropping finish.

The South Region's No. 5 seed, VCU (23-10) was firmly in control after its swarming defense flustered SFA during a big second-half run.

The scrappy Lumberjacks (32-2) kept hanging around and clawed their way back in the closing seconds.

Two missed free throws by VCU's Jordan Burgess with 10 seconds left gave SFA a chance.

The Lumberjacks worked the ball around to the wing, where Haymon launched a three-pointer and was fouled by JaQuan Lewis just before the ball fell through the basket. The crowd still buzzing, VCU coach Shaka Smart called timeout trying to ice Haymon, but the senior calmly knocked the free throw down.

Following a missed desperation heave at the end of regulation, Haymon put the 'Jacks ahead in overtime on a three-point-

er with 2 minutes left.

VCU's turn at glory came after SFA's Thomas Walkup made 1 of 2 free throws put the Lumberjacks up two with 14 seconds left. The Rams got a good look on the final possession, working the ball around to Lewis for an open three-pointer on the wing.

His shot went long, the Lumberjacks grabbed the rebound, then stormed the floor after improbably extending the nation's second-longest winning streak to 29 games. (Wichita State is 35-0).

Jacob Parker scored 22 points and Haymon had 17 for SFA.

Treveen Graham had 19 points, Burgess 14 and Lewis finished with 13 for the disappointed Rams, the third No. 5 seed to lose in this tournament.

UCLA 76, Tulsa 59: At San Diego, Jordan Adams had 21 points and eight rebounds, and Norman Powell scored 15 points in his hometown to lead the fourth-seeded Bruins past the 13th-seeded Golden Hurricane, spoiling the NCAA tournament head coaching debut of Danny Manning.

In his first year at Westwood, Steve Alford coached UCLA (27-8) to just its third win in the NCAA tournament since 2009. It came in the city where John Wooden won the last of his 10 national championships, in 1975.

Tulsa (21-13) had its 11-game winning streak snapped. Manning led Kansas to the 1988 title and won another champi-

onship as a Jayhawks assistant coach six years ago.

Stanford 58, New Mexico 53: At St. Louis, the seventh-seeded Lobos got a big game from Cameron Bairstow but never quite dug out of an early 16-point deficit, losing to the 10th-seeded Cardinal.

Chasson Randle scored 23 points and Stanford made an impression in its first NCAA appearance since 2008, leading almost to finish against New Mexico.

The Cardinal (22-12) held on after the Lobos rallied to tie it midway through the second half. They got four crucial free throws from reserve Robbie Lemons and Randle in the final half-minute after New Mexico had cut the deficit to two points.

Kansas 80, Eastern Kentucky 69: At St. Louis, the second-seeded Jayhawks slowly took control down the stretch and pulled away to beat the 15th-seeded Colonels.

Andrew Wiggins had 19 points for Kansas (25-9). Jamarri Traylor added 17 points and 14 rebounds, Perry Ellis had 14 points and 13 rebounds and Tarek Black finished with 12 points as Kansas dominated in the paint.

Glenn Corey hit five three-pointers and had 17 points for 15th-seeded Eastern Kentucky (24-10), which has lost all eight of its NCAA tournament games. Tarius Johnson and Eric Stutz finished with 15 points apiece, but second-leading scorer Corey Walden was held to four points before fouling out.

West Region

Foul-filled game ends with Zags moving on

The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Gonzaga and Oklahoma State players, coaches and fans no doubt left Viejas Arena with the shrill sound of the referees' whistles ringing in their ears Friday.

The refs called 61 fouls, which affected the pace and outcome of eighth-seeded Gonzaga's 85-77 win against Marcus Smart and ninth-seeded Oklahoma State in the West region of the NCAA tournament.

Kevin Pangos scored 26 points, including hitting 12 of 14 free throws, and Gary Bell Jr. added 17 for Gonzaga (29-6), which is in its 16th straight NCAA tournament and moves on to play top-seeded Arizona on Sunday.

Pangos made 10 of 10 free throws in the last 1:31. The final 3½ minutes took 24 minutes to play.

The 61 fouls were seven off the record for fouls in a tournament game set by Iowa and Morehead State in a regional semifinal game in 1956.

Smart had a big effort in his final college game, with 23 points, 13 rebounds, seven assists and six steals for Oklahoma State (21-13). He was 12-of-19 from the line.

Arizona 68, Weber State 59: At San Diego, No. 16 seed Weber State held top-seeded Arizona without a field goal for the opening 5 minutes and rallied most of the way back from a 21-point deficit before falling.

Arizona (31-4) appeared to be next in line in a day full of upsets — falling into an eight-point deficit in the opening 6 minutes — but closed in around Weber State (19-12), shutting down the Wildcats during two big first-half runs.

Nick Johnson had 18 points, Aaron Gordon added 16 and Arizona blocked 11 shots while holding Weber State to 30 percent from the field.

Creighton 76, Louisiana-Lafayette 66: At San Antonio, Doug McDermott scored 30 points and Ethan Wragge made three huge momentum-changing shots in the second half, sending the No. 3 seed Blue-boys to a town win over the 14th-seeded Ragin' Cajuns.

McDermott had a double-double by half-time but went scoreless for nearly 14 minutes of the second half, leaving it to Wragge's long shots to bail out Creighton (27-7) from a potential upset by Louisiana-Lafayette.

Sen Belt tournament champion Louisiana-Lafayette (23-12) led 50-48 before Wragge struck from long range to spark Creighton's push that finally put it away.

Baylor 74, Nebraska 60: At San Antonio, Cory Jefferson scored 16 points and the sixth-seeded Bears coasted in their first tournament game since falling in the Elite Eight two years ago, beating the 11th-seeded Cornhuskers.

Nebraska lost again in its seventh tournament appearance. Terran Petteway scored 18 points for the Cornhuskers (19-13), who hadn't played on this stage since 1998.

Isaiah Austin scored 13 points and Brady Heslip added 12 for Baylor. The Bears didn't shootout the Cornhuskers but got to the free-throw line three times as often — the me 38 of 48, compared to 10 of 16 for Nebraska.

SPORTS



Jets set?

Vick headed to NYJ to compete with QB Smith; Sanchez released | **Page 25**

NCAA TOURNAMENT: COMMENTARY

Not so upset?

Smaller schools continue to prove that they belong

By PAUL NEWBERRY
The Associated Press

As we watch one so-called favorite after another fall in the NCAA tournament, it's not really accurate to call them upsets anymore.

Showing just how little the names on the front of the jerseys matter these days, Mercer turned storied Duke into one-and-done on Friday afternoon. And before the night was done, 12th-seeded Stephen F. Austin took out VCU.

Nothing fluky about these games.

Especially what we saw out of Mercer, a small, private school from Middle Georgia that was simply the better team against Coach K and his blue bloods from Durham, both on the court and with their postgame moves. Seriously, if "Dancing With The Stars" doesn't give a shout to Mercer's Kevin Canavari after his killer rendition of the Nae Nae, there's no justice in this world.

For now, let's focus on another kind of justice.

SEE UPSET ON PAGE 29

'They're not just experienced. They're good.'

Mike Kryzewski

Duke coach, on Mercer following the Blue Devils' 78-71 loss to the Bears

Inside:

- Tennessee routs UMass, Page 29
- Cavs rally to avoid upset, Page 30
- Stephen F. Austin stages improbable comeback against VCU, Page 31
- Zags send Cowboys packing, Page 31

Mercer guard Langston Hall, right, celebrates after the 14th-seeded Bears knocked off No. 3 seed Duke on Friday in Raleigh, N.C. Mercer won 78-71.

CHUCK BURTON/AP



Durant scores 51 in 2OT win
NBA roundup, Page 28

Kershaw sharp in season opener
MLB, Page 27

Bruins stretch win streak to 11
NHL roundup, Page 26